

Consider it pure joy,
**MY BROTHERS
AND SISTERS,**
whenever you face
trials of many kinds

James 1:2

Perfecting the Pleasure of Perseverance

◆ James 1:2-4,12

“ Consider it pure joy, my brothers when you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be complete and mature, not lacking anything...blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God promised to those who love Him.”

Some scriptures that support joy.

- ◆ Psalm 5:11,
- ◆ Psalm 43:4,
- ◆ Job 8:21,
- ◆ Isaiah 9:3,
- ◆ Isaiah 12:3,
- ◆ Matt 25:21,
- ◆ Luke 2:10,
- ◆ Acts 13:52,
- ◆ Romans 14:17,
- ◆ Galatians 5:22

How can we experience the joy of the Lord in our lives?

- ◆ 1.) Pick the pathway to life
- ◆ 2.) Pursue the presence of the Lord
- ◆ 3.) Participate in Rivers of Pleasure
- ◆ **Psalm 16:11**” You will show me the path of life; In your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

1.) Pick the pathway to life

- ◆ **What is the pathway?**
- ◆ **“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments...I have set before you life and death, blessing and curses; therefore choose life.”**

◆ **Deut 30:15-19**

What does it mean to choose life and pick the pathway of life?

- ◆ **John 15:11** “ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”
- ◆ It means we wilfully choose to live according to the **WORD OF GOD**

2.) Pursue the Presence of the Lord

◆ 8 step program from a research group to assist you in finding joy.

- 1.) they work to determine your sense of humour**
- 2.) they help you become less serious**
- 3.) they help you develop a hearty belly laugh**
- 4.) Help you improve joke telling**
- 5.) help you create spontaneous verbal humour**
- 6.) find humour in every day life**
- 7.) laugh at yourself**
- 8.) Start applying these skills**

**YOU will show me the path of life;
In your presence is fullness of
JOY.” Psalm 16:11**

- ◆ **How do we get to the place where the fullness of joy abounds?**
- ◆ **It is in Gods Presence**

Psalm 18:14

- ◆ “The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity”
- ◆ Amp: The strong spirit of a man sustains him in bodily pain and trouble...but a weak and broken spirit who can raise up or bear?”

3.) Participate in the rivers of pleasure.

- ◆ **Psalm 16:11** “ At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
- ◆ **Psalm 36: 8** “ They relish and feast on the abundance of your house; and you cause them to drink of the rivers of your pleasures. For with you is the fountain of life.”
- ◆ “ How precious is your loving kindness, O God.! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of your house. And you give them drink from the river of your pleasures.” **Psalm 36:7-8**

1 Peter 1:6-9

- ◆ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith (of greater worth than gold), which perishes even though refined by fire may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed

We need to drink from the rivers of Gods pleasure!

- ◆ **Pressure, trials, obstacles, stress, tension, debt are all used to perfect the art of passionately pursuing His presence.**
- ◆ **Consider it pure joy because it develops perseverance that promises the crown of life.**