

Choose JOY

Sunday, July 15, 2018 Pastor Ray Cummings

James 1:2 (ESV)

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

Part 2 – The World is Watching!

Philippians 2:14-15, Acts 16:22-34, and Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV)

Philippians 2:14-15 (NLT)

14 Do everything without complaining and arguing,

15 so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.

Philippians 2:14-15 (MSG)

14 Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! 15 Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night

Acts 16:22-34 (NLT)

22 A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. 23 They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. 24 So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks. 25 Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. 26 Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! 27 The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. 28 But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!" 29 The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." 32 And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. 33 Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. 34 He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God.

Benefits of Choosing Joy when in Trials

1. The Faith-Life I claim to have is revealed in those moments.

Bob Goff

“When Joy is a habit, love is a reflex.”

2. A Watching World gets to see what believing in God really means.

Psalm 126:2-3 (NLT)

2 We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy. And the other nations said, “What amazing things the LORD has done for them.”

3 Yes, the LORD has done amazing things for us! What joy!

Friedrich Nietzsche, commenting on the Christians he knew,

“I would believe in their salvation
if they looked a little more like people who have been saved.”

Building a Stronger Faith

1. An untested faith is an unreliable faith.

2. We want the Product of Trials without having to go through the Process.

Question to Consider

Why would the lost believe God created joy, or Jesus was a man of Joy, or the Holy Spirit gives joy, or the Bible is a book of joy – if all they have to evaluate is my life?!

Zephaniah 3:17 (NLT)

17 For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”