




**December Sermon Series:
UNSPEAKABLE JOY!**



Foundation Scripture:
1 PETER 1:8 (GW)

1 Peter 1:8 (GW), Although you have never seen Christ, you love Him. You don't see Him now, but you believe in Him. You are extremely happy with joy and praise that can hardly be expressed in words as you obtain the salvation that is the goal of your faith.

“Christian joy is letting Christ live His life out through you so that what He is you become.”

It is a settled assurance, a quiet confidence, and a choice to trust God, no matter the circumstance.



Lesson Three:
JOY-KILLERS


List of Joy Killers

Holding a grudge, entertainment that glorifies what God hates, caring too much about what people think, watching too much news, anger and frustration, making yourself and your needs your top priority, trying to fix, control, and manipulate people and circumstances, pretending to be someone you are not (hypocrisy), living only for today, with no thought for eternity...



1. Lack of a Devotional Life.

It's hard to rejoice in the Lord when you don't take time to know who He is.



**“If you’re not hungry for God,
you’re probably full of
yourself.”**

Philippians 4:4-7, Rejoice in the Lord always: and again, I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful about nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.




2. An Unthankful Spirit

Ingratitude focuses our hearts and minds on our needs rather than on our blessings.



**Psalm 68:19, Blessed be the Lord,
who daily loads us with benefits,
even the God of our salvation.**




**“Thankfulness is the soil in
which joy thrives.”**




3. Comparing Yourself with Others

Comparison always leads to ingratitude, pride, or discouragement.



**Galatians 6:4, But let every man
prove his own work, and then shall
he have rejoicing in himself alone,
and not in another.**




“Compare yourself to who you were yesterday, not to who someone else is today.”




4. Impure Thoughts


A pure heart is a happy heart, and an impure heart is an unhappy heart.



**Matthew 5:8, Blessed are
the pure in heart: for they
shall see God.**



“If your mind is filled with the Word of God, then it can’t be filled with impure thoughts.”




**Psalm 16:11, In Thy presence is
fulness of joy; at Thy right hand
there are pleasures for
evermore.**




5. Unresolved Conflict

God intended for our Christian relationships to bring joy into our lives.



“10% of conflict is due to a difference of opinion. 90% is due to the wrong tone of voice.”



**Philippians 4:2, I beseech
Euodias, and beseech Syntyche,
that they be of the same mind in
the Lord.**

**Matthew 18:15, Moreover, if thy
brother shall trespass against thee,
go and tell him about his fault
between thee and him alone: if he
shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy
brother.**




6. Failed Relationships

Ruptured relationships can kill our joy...if we do not keep our focus on Christ.



“God will not bless a relationship He is not involved in.”



**Romans 12:18, If it be possible, as
much as lieth in you, live
peaceably with all men.**

- 1. Mend every relational conflict that we can.**
- 2. Sometimes it is impossible to solve a conflict.**



7. Neglect of Priorities

Joy can withstand tremendous loss and sorrow, but it doesn't easily sustain imbalance.

Ephesians 5:15-17, See then that ye walk
circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,
Redeeming the time, because the days
are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise but
understanding what the will of the Lord is.



**“God won’t give you a
schedule where there’s
no time for Him.”**



8. Material Expectations

Expectations of any kind will set you up for joy-sucking disappointment.

Philippians 4:10-12, 17, But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things, I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.... Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.



TAKE YOUR JOY BACK!