

*Trans*  
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**TRANSFORMING JOY**

**Romans 12:1-2:** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Galatians 5:22-23:** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

**LIFE GROUP / PERSONAL STUDY:**

Joy comes from the transforming work of God when we put our trust in Him. God works on us, He works in us, and He works through us. The goal is to have a deeper relationship with Him. As a result, we can impact the lives of others by being a good example of Jesus. God desires to transform us to take us from where we are, to where He wants us to be. When we partner with God, relying on His strength rather than our own, we can have the joyful optimism and hope of life eternal knowing that God is on His Throne and in control.

**Read Philippians 1:12-19:**

1A) Who is Paul in chains for and what is the result of this?

1B) Why is Paul rejoicing? (verse 18)

1C) PERSONAL: Do you have difficulty accepting your current circumstance or resent what God seems to be allowing in your life? In what ways can you rejoice in the midst of this season in order to change your perspective?

**Read Philippians 3:8-14:**

2A) Summarize Paul's priority, or goal, from these passages.

2B) What does Paul say about having achieved perfection? What does he focus his efforts on? (vs 12-14)

2C) PERSONAL: Is there something in your past that is keeping you from becoming what God wants you to be? In what ways can you let go of past guilt and focus on your relationship with God now?

**Read Philippians 4:11-13:**

3A) Why is Paul content without regards to his situation? Where does he find his power or strength?

3B) PERSONAL: To what are you drawn to when you feel empty inside? How can you find true joy?

4) What do you learn from the following verses about our goal, or purpose, as believers?

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

1 Timothy 5:7-10

Philippians 1:21-26

2 Timothy 4:7-8

Philippians 3:13-14

**Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-12:**

5A) PERSONAL: The secret to peace with God, and true joy within, is to discover, accept, and appreciate God's perfect timing. In what ways can you put this into practice?

5B) PERSONAL: How is your faith impacted knowing that God has "planted eternity in the human heart" and that we "cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end"?

6) PERSONAL: List your current priorities in order.

7) PERSONAL: How are you going to start the process of renewing your mind?

**ACT:** Transformation begins when we renew our mind. It is so easy to conform to the ways of this world. Our decisions and our discipline will determine how we partner with God, how we reflect Jesus in our lives and how we allow the Holy Spirit to foster good fruits within us. Keeping Jesus at the forefront of our thoughts and actions helps this transformation process and allows us to feel true joy regardless of our current circumstance. Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

**Daily Devotional:** It always helps to look at the context of the passage. Then try to answer the following questions about the passage. Who is involved? What is going on? Where is the action taking place? When? How can this concept apply to my life? Why is it important? Also look for Commands, Warnings, and Examples to follow or not to follow.

- Every day this week read about the inner joy that comes from knowing God's love and promises.

## **Monday:**

### **1 Peter 1:8-9 NIV**

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## **Tuesday:**

### **Romans 15:13 NIV**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **Wednesday:**

### **Hebrews 12:2 NIV**

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## **Thursday:**

### **Isaiah 35:10 NIV**

and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

## **Friday:**

### **James 1:2-3 NIV**

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

## **Saturday:**

### **Psalms 16:11 NLT**

You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

## **Sunday:**

### **John 15:10-12 NLT**

When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

