

TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

We Are a People of Joy
March 1, 2015 - Clayton King

- **Open in prayer**

- **Introduction**

- A commonly asked question, especially in school is, "When am I ever going to use this?"
- If you listen, you can use this message every single day for the rest of your life...this is practical spirituality.
- Clayton said, just like his mom's black-eyed peas and cornbread, this message will stick to your (spiritual) ribs.
 - o Discuss the following three statements:
 - o *You don't have to earn grace or work for it. God's grace, love and righteousness are yours because of what Jesus did, not because of what you can do.*
 - o *Grace isn't opposed to effort...Grace is opposed to earning. You don't earn the grace of God. It's credited to you on behalf of Jesus.*
 - o *Your motivation should be out of faithfulness and joy because you have already been given grace.*

- **Read Romans 4:4-6, 7-8, and Psalm 32:1-2.**

- **God does three things according to Romans 4:7-8.**

- o Your disobedience is forgiven. God takes your punishment.
- o Your sins are out of God's sight. God doesn't keep a list, He removes your sins as far as the east is from the west.
- o God has cleared your record. You are clean in God's sight. He has no record of right and wrong.
 He sees Jesus in you.
- o As a Christ-follower, do you live like these three things happened in your life?
- o Which of the three do you struggle with believing and living out the most?
- o Discuss this statement, "Part of your new identity in Christ is that you're free from trying to perform".
- o Pray for members in your group to walk in what God did for them.

- **Happiness is based on your circumstances but joy is based on your salvation.**

- o Explain the difference between living by happiness and living in joy.
- o What does living in joy look like in difficult life situations?
- o Share a personal story or allow someone in the group to share their story of joy during a challenge.

- **Where is your joy rooted?**

- Consider the source.

- o What does the following statement mean? "Fruit always reflects the root."
- o What happens when you root your joy in other people's acceptance?
- o Discuss this statement, "When the root of your joy is Jesus then even in the midst of bad times your fruit will be the joy of your salvation".

- **What kills your joy?**

- o Remember: Satan always wants to kill your joy because he sees you as an image bearer of God.
- o As you discuss these, share which one(s) you struggle with the most and identify other joy killers.

Comparison.	Comparing your life to someone else's life.
Unforgiveness.	Forgiveness is a daily discipline. Unforgiveness is like drinking poison thinking it will kill someone else.
Disappointment.	You don't get what you want. Instead rejoice that you didn't get what you deserve.
Negative voices.	You could call this drama. Cut them out of your life.
Worry.	Worry is rooted in fear.
Isolation.	Isolation is the opposite of how God wants you to live—in relationship. (Upward, Inward, Outward)
Sin.	Sin is missing the mark, not measuring up. You don't have to measure up because Jesus did!

- **How to kill your joy killers.**
- Discuss how you can apply these to your life.
 - Worship** Worship is the cure for worry.
Worship places your heart's affection and your mind's attention on Jesus.
 - God's Word** The joy of the Lord is your strength—and it comes from reading God's Word.
 - The Gospel** Preach the gospel to yourself—if necessary, out loud.
 - History** When you're tempted to get hysterical, get historical—remember, recall, and revisit all the times in your life when God was faithful.
- **Soul Tattoo: Choose to be a person of joy this week.**
 - o Marinate on Clayton's final statement, "Joy is a muscle that gets stronger as you exercise it, and it's a weapon that gets more accurate as you use it. Joy assassinates discouragement before it kills you.
- **Close in prayer.**

CALENDAR

Baptism

April 5, @ TC 521 & TC RH

Next Steps

TC Group Connect

March 10, @ TC 521

Newcomer Connection

April 12, @ TC 521 & TC RH

Class 1: Who We Are

April 19, @ TC 521

Learn More About What's Happening at TC

TransformationChurch.tc