


LIVING IN THE Joy OF the Lord



THE SPIRITUAL RHYTHM
OF CELEBRATION

MESSAGE BY: ANGELA WATSON



Questions to Consider

1. Were you surprised to hear the word celebration used to express the idea of experiencing the joy of the Lord? How does tonight's presentation impact the way you think of celebration? Discuss the Biblical concept of celebration — how that obedience is the pathway to the joy of the Lord, which is central to our celebration.

2. God's Word says, "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). What does this mean, and how is this lived out in our lives?

"Joy is the end result of the Spiritual Disciplines functioning in our lives. God brings about the transformation of our lives through the Disciplines, and we will not know genuine joy until there is transforming work within us."

RICHARD FOSTER

Questions to Consider

3. How does knowing the nature of God (His faithfulness, sovereignty, righteousness, holiness, lovingkindness, etc.) inspire rejoicing?

4. Read 2 Samuel 6:16-23. David's heart was filled with joy at the return of the ark of God, and he celebrated. Look at the difference between his behavior and Michal's. What can we learn from her response to David's celebration?

"We dishonor God as much by fearing and avoiding pleasure as we do by dependence upon it or living for it."

DALLAS WILLARD



Questions to Consider

5. In Angela's message, she brings out how time began with celebration at creation and will end with the ultimate celebration of joy at the marriage supper of the Lamb (Genesis 1:14-18; Job 38:4a, 6, 7; Revelation 19:6-9). When time is no more, we will spend eternity celebrating who God is and what He has done. In light of that, what priority should we place on celebrating Him in our daily lives?

6. Read Psalm 42:1-11 (in the NLT), in which lament and celebration are intertwined. Notice how the psalmist expresses his emotions — both sorrow and hope in God. Discuss how the psalmist's remembrance of God's faithfulness and character provide hope and joy in the middle of his sorrow.

Questions to Consider

7. Both joy and thanksgiving are key components of celebration. How can we use the rich traditions of special days like Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter to remember our many blessings and prepare our hearts for worship and service? How can this impact the generations to come?

8. Practically, how do we communicate “celebrating in God” to our family and friends? How can we consciously bring God into our family celebrations?

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."

Philippians 4:4

Notes

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