

BIG IDEA

God's kingdom does not consist of what a person eats or drinks. Rather, God's kingdom consists of God's approval and peace, as well as the joy that the Holy Spirit gives.

[-Romans 14:17](#)

- Open In Prayer

- **Group Guidelines:** be mindful of the Guidelines on Page 5.

- **Announcements:** Gals Meeting, Mens Nite Out Friday at 7:30 Smitties, Hearing God Sundays 9am.

Please fill out the attendees section and pass on to Pastor Larry.

Start with Prayer,

Follow up and review last weeks discussion, What was it about?

What stood out? What Impact did it have on you, at work with your family?

This Week: the Holy Spirit and Kingdom Joy.

***Key Verse:** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.*

And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. -James 1:2-4

Ask Each person in the Group to **Define Happiness. Define Joy**

until everyone truly has a clear understanding of these two words. Try not to use "churchy words".

Question: Are you a joyful person? Or are you a happy person? What makes you happy? Is it the same thing that makes you joyful?

KEY Point: The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us the joy in our life enabling one to embrace and come through various trials and temptations

The Story: The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25- 37

- Have the Group **Read the story.** GO around and have people read portions until done.

*"Beloved do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But **rejoice** insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also **rejoice** and be **glad** when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are **blessed** (happy), because the Spirit of glory and God rests upon you." -[1 Peter 4:12-14](#)*

Question: Have you ever thought of the Hebrew in the story, about his side of the story, like Pastor Shannon presented on Sunday?

Question: How do we tend to react when Trials descend upon us? What is the difference between Trials and temptations?

Temptations come from flesh, trials are sent from God.

[Read James 1:14](#) •says it is by ones own evil desire inside that one is dragged and enticed to sin.

[Read James 1:13](#) says that God does not tempt a person undergoing trial because God cannot be tempted by evil and does not tempt people with evil. God is good all the time. All the time, God is good. God allows temptations and tests (Job), and even Himself tests us "for us to know what is in our hearts"

Remember the 3 Basic Questions of any Discussion:

1 - What is God Revealing to you & those you are leading about the topic.

2 - What are you (they) going to do about it?

3 - What can we Pray for you this week?

Suggested reading list for this year:

Holy Fire, R.T. Kendall

The Forgotten God,

- Francis Chan

40 Days with the Holy

Spirit, R.T. Kendall

Bible Reading Plan- **Life Journal**

So... How do you in the testing of God? The temptations of the flesh?

- What have you been put to the test by? Who have you been put to the test by? **Why are we put to the 'test'?**
so that your faith will develop patience (v.3). And through the working of patience, one may become perfect, complete and lack nothing (v.4).
- Trials and temptations are to be expected because we are destined for them ([1 Thess. 3:3](#)) for the simple fact of whom we choose to follow, Jesus.
-Phil.1:29

Question, as may be yours, how do you do that? Count all your various trials and temptations for joy?

Dignify a Trial [R.T. Kendall]

- Welcome it.
- Don't panic - God okayed it (Remember [1 Cor. 10:13](#))
- See the trial as a compliment to you - Congratulations! Blessed. Rejoice ([Mt.5:3-12](#))
- Never forget that God allowed it - refuse to become bitter and shake your fist at God ([James 1:20](#)).
- Know that there is a purpose in it ([James 1:2-4](#))
- Don't try to end it -allow God to finish His work in you.
- Don't grumble - God puts grumbling alongside the sins of idolatry and sexual sin as evil deeds that brought His wrath down upon Israel ([1 Cor. 10:1-12](#)).
- Know that God wants you to pass the test far more than you do.

Can we say with Job, amongst trial...?
"Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him." -Job 13:15

KEY Point: *The Holy Spirit is the one who gives us the joy in our life enabling one to embrace and come through various trials and temptations.*

Who is the agent of God's grace? The Holy Spirit.

"... But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." -Jn. 7:37-39 Remember our discussion from last week

Read out loud and then Discuss -[Jn. 6:33](#) [Jn. 3:24](#) *take a deeper look at the Adverbs and thier implications*

Suffering with Joy

*"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, **7**for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." -2 Tim. 1:6-7*

Discuss implications of theses verses

-[Romans 14:17](#) [Galatians 5:22-23](#)

Ask Yourselves This week: What does a **joyful person look like**? How do they carry themselves, through their daily life? How do we (I)? in what way does a person like this honor God and promote Gods Kingdom?

Prayer Requests		
NAME	Request	Celebrate/Praise