

Crazy Happy: Finding Joy (1 Peter 1:3-9)

Rick Weber | 8/7/22

"Many people feel that their happiness is directly related to their happenings. If their happenings happen to happen, the way they happen to want their happenings to happen, they are happy. But if their happens don't happen to happen the way they happen to want their happenings to happen, they are unhappy!" (**Stuart Briscoe**)

In I Peter 1:3-9 Peter provides proof that what happens to us does not have to steal our happiness. The circumstances of life do not dictate our response. Our hope - our joy - is not based upon changing circumstances but it is based upon the unchanging foundation of Jesus Christ.

I Peter 1:3-9:

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 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, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

What is "joy"?

Someone described it this way: Joy is deep sense of contentment in your circumstances regardless of what those circumstances might be.

Joy is based in Jesus Christ.

I Peter 1:3-5, "In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time."

Joy can be experienced in spite of troubling times.

1 Peter 1:6-7, 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

James 1:2-4, "2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

- They will be for a little while
- They have come to prove faith genuine.

Joy is not based upon what we see, but on faith in what is unseen.

1 Peter 1:8-9, "8 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, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

Find joy.

In life there are a multitude of things over which we have no control - for those things that make a play to steal joy we turn to the Word of God for hope.

In life there are some things we have control over – our decision to express faith in Jesus Christ is one of those. Choose to believe. Choose Joy. Choose a crazy happy life.

If you have committed your life to following Jesus today, please text the word "JOURNEY" to (951)425-4425 so that we can support you on your new spiritual journey.