

JOY-FULL
John 15:11

Eeyores and Tiggers.

The kind of joy we're talking about today is not simply overcoming the "doom and gloom" nor, is it bouncing blissfully ignorant through life. Rather, it is to be found in facing the ups and downs of everyday life with the contentment that is only found in Jesus Christ.

"Deflate-Gate."

In this world we have struggles, suffering, and sorrow. Those things can suck the joy right out of us and leave us feeling deflated. Yet, Jesus endured all of these things but His joy remained full. He promises He can give us that same kind of joy.

First, we need to clarify, JOY is not merely _____.
(Philippians 4:11-13, NLT)

Where do we find that level of contentment and joy?

1. In _____ (John 15:9-12, NLT)
2. In _____ (Luke 15:3-7, NLT)
3. In _____ (James 1:2-4, NLT)

There is a difference between _____ troubles... and **having joy in the _____ of them.**

Joy isn't found in the trouble... but in the _____ of the trouble. It's part of the upside-down economics of God's kingdom; **the things that cause us the greatest _____ can produce in us the greatest _____.**

WHAT I WILL DO WITH THIS MESSAGE: _____

John 15:11 (NLT)

¹¹ I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

Philippians 4:11-13 (NLT)

¹¹ Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. ¹² I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. ¹³ For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

John 15:9-12 (NLT)

⁹ "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! ¹² This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

Luke 15:3-7 (NLT)

³ So Jesus told them this story: ⁴ "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. ⁶ When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!

James 1:2-4 (NLT)

² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.