



Joy In Ministry

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"Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross..." Hebrew 12:2

"In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit." Luke 10:21

"The joy of the Lord is your strength." Nehemiah 8:10

Don't underestimate the intended role of joy in ministry.

Jesus led with joy. *"Who for the joy that was set before him"* Hebrews 12:2

Nehemiah led with joy. *"The joy of the LORD is your strength."* Nehemiah 8:10

There is significant joy in ministry. Jesus experienced joy in ministry. Jesus promises joy in ministry as well. *"These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."* John 15:11

"Ask and you will receive that your joy may be full." John 16:24

Jesus Repositions Joy in Ministry

Luke is the only gospel writer who includes both the sending out of the 12 apostles as well as the sending out of the seventy-two disciples.

Luke 10:21 is the only place in the Gospels we see *"happy Jesus."* When the seventy-two disciples returned, it says, *"He rejoiced (GK. agalliano) in the Holy Spirit."*

"rejoiced" agalliano: to rejoice exceedingly, to exalt, literally to jump for joy

1. After the seventy-two return, Jesus first directs His praise to Father God.

"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."
Luke 10:21-22

2. Jesus then privately commends His disciples.

"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it." Luke 10:23-24

Notice that the only thing the disciples talked about when they returned to Jesus was that they were able to command demons.

"The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!'"

3. Jesus immediately gives them a higher perspective.

"And he said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.'" Luke 10:18

4. Jesus reminds them that their authority was in Him, not in themselves.

"Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you." Luke 10:19

5. Jesus rebukes the disciples in order to shift their primary source of joy.

"Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:20

I.E. Do not rejoice in what you do for God; but rejoice in what God does through you.

Joy in ministry is essential. *"The joy of the LORD is your strength."* Nehemiah 8:10

There is a major shift that takes place when we receive more joy in what God is doing in our life and ministry, and less joy in what we are doing.

Jesus is jealous to give us joy in ministry. He also reserves the right to test our joy, purify our joy, and redirect our joy.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4

Lead with joy!

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