

ADVENT...A SEASON OF ANTICIPATION

JOY - JOHN 15:11 - ERIC SIMPSON - DECEMBER 11, 2016

John 15:11 (Jesus speaking)

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

"Joy is not pleasure, a mere sensation, but a pervasive and constant sense of well-being. Hope in the goodness of God is joy's indispensable support." – Dallas Willard

➤ Joy is received, not achieved.

A kind of joy that finds its source beyond us.

A circumstance-independent joy

Advent-joy is a gift received, not a virtue achieved.

➤ The pathway to joy is found in a whole-hearted pursuit of God.

order-of-joy = seeing, knowing, loving, enjoying

"Almost every week, and sometimes almost every day, the pressure of his great love comes down on my heart in such measure as to make...my whole being, soul and body, groan beneath the strain of the almost unsupportable plethora of joy...He has unlocked every apartment of my being and filled and flooded them all with the light of his radiant presence...Jesus, the One altogether lovely." – Daniel Steele (1824-1914)

"the inward habit of beholding God" – A.W. Tozer

Putting it into practice...

☐ **Memorize *Psalm 118:6-7***

"The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid...The Lord is with me; he is my helper."

☐ **See how often you can intentionally bring those words to mind throughout your day/week.**

-- as you wake up, while you're getting dressed, while you're driving to work, as you're running errands, when you're walking into an important meeting, when you're cooking mac-n-cheese for the kids, as you go to sleep

☐ **Talk with someone about your experience.**

-- what's been helpful? anything noticeably different?

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