

When I Don't Desire God: How to Fight for Joy

HOW TO FIGHT FOR JOY

July 25, 2010; Part 1

John 15:11; 16:24; Acts 13:52; Romans 14:17; Galatians 5:22

We Were Made To Know and Enjoy God: To desire God more than anything

"I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of." *John 10:10 MSG*

"They are my own people, and I created them to bring me glory."
Isaiah 43:7 GNT

"If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be separated from God—lost forever!" *1 Corinthians 16:22 NCV*

1. God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him

2 Kinds of Joy

- Life Sustaining: Leads to eternal life
- Life Draining: Leads to eternal death

2. Our sin stands in the way of our full satisfaction in God

- It Opposes: makes other things look more desirable than God
- It Perverts: makes me think that I am pursuing God, when in fact I am in love with His gifts

3. God's solution: Pursue a love relationship with Jesus

"Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross..." *Hebrews 12:2 NASB*

"I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ"
Philippians 3:8 NASB

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." *Philippians 1:21 NASB*

Taking Up the Fight for Joy in God

"For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me—the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!" *Jeremiah 2:13 NLT*

1. God defines evil as:

- 1) Forsaking the living water: tasting and rejecting the living water
- 2) Building broken cisterns: giving my energies to finding better water

➤ Esteeming God less than anything is the essence of evil

"If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine." *Matthew 10:37 NLT*

2. Faith / Joy in Christ is something that must be fought for, if it is to thrive and survive

"Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life." *1 Timothy 6:12 NASB*

"When I could no longer stand it, I also sent to find out about your faith, fearing that the tempter had tempted you and that our labor might be for nothing."
1 Thessalonians 3:5 HCSB

➤ Satan Targets our Faith

➤ Result: Prevalence of a superficial attitude toward the ongoing daily intensity of personal joy in Christ

3. When I fight for Joy:

- 1) It is the right fight because the enemy of our joy is evil
- 2) I don't have to fight alone *Philippians 2:13*
- 3) It is not a struggle to carry a burden, but a struggle to let the burden be carried for me
- 4) It does not involve self-exaltation, but self-humbling
- 5) God is greatly Glorified