

December 30, 2018
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
JOY TO THE WORLD: Episode 4
FINDING JOY IN 2019
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JAMES 1:1-4

James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes who are¹dispersed abroad: Greetings.

² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Few things sell like discontent.

Much of today's secular and christian culture is based on monetizing your discontent.

- You are not what you need to be "yet".
- You should be...

"My crown is in my heart, not on my head; not decked with diamonds and Indian stones, nor to be seen: my crown is called content, a crown it is that seldom kings enjoy."

- William Shakespeare

James give a culturally defiant rallying cry to those who would choose joy over manifested purpose.

- 1. Exist where you are.**
- 2. Change your perception.**
- 3. Endure.**

1. Exist where you are.

a. **Vs. 1** James a bond servant.

- i. Few modern best sellers exalt the glories of servanthood.

2. Change your perception.

a. **Vs 2** "Consider it pure joy"

- i. Greek meaning: "Deem Ye" or "Cast a heavy vote"
- ii. Joy is often a product of "You Doing". What do we mean by that?

3. Endure.

- a. **Vs. 3** And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
 - i. Endurance is a factory for emotional and spiritual perfection.
 - 1. Few people understand the true value of endurance.

In Conclusion: Joy is the bi-product of a life lived outward and cannot be found by the amassing of temporal pleasures.

“I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.” □ Rabindranath Tagore Nobel Prize winning Indian Poet

Food for the journey: Use these tools and challenges this week to harvest more joy in your life.

1. Work on existing in the moment, bringing joy to it and not mind surfing the future or past you.
2. Make a list of values rather than goals for the new year.
3. New Year’s Resolution: Spend one year not thinking about your purpose in life, but rather live in the moment according to a set of defined values.
4. Pick one place where you will give your life away this year. One of our missions partners might be a great option.
5. Make a list of the things you most enjoy. Do 3 to 5 of them each day and see how it changes your perception.