

Sermon: Finding Joy as a Christian

Bible Verses: Various

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1. Jesus wants me to give up _____ stuff, in exchange for _____ stuff.

Many Christians in the church today are saved, but they are still UNHAPPY. We know Jesus. We truly believe and have accepted that He is the Son of God, that He died, and He rose from the dead. We have faith in this, and we are saved. But on the other hand, we still don't really trust Him enough to give Him ALL our stuff - our obedience, our heart, our WHOLE LIFE. We struggle or refuse to surrender to Jesus our worry, our anxiety, our need to control others, and to control our own lives.

2. We have _____, but we don't have _____! Psalm 55:22 Cast your cares on the LORD and He WILL sustain you; he will NEVER let the righteous be shaken.

God gave us free will. We have to make the DECISION to TRUST Him. We have to make the DECISION to give Him ALL our old stuff, in exchange for His new stuff. We can't hold out on God and keep SOME of our old stuff, and expect Him to bless us with His new stuff.

3. Do NOT conform to the pattern of _____, but be _____ by the renewing of your _____. THEN you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, His good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)

4. We have to _____ to _____. We have to _____ to _____. The "new life" stuff we get, are the fruits of the Spirit.

5. But the fruit of the Spirit is _____. _____, _____, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Isn't this the NEW STUFF we all really want, deep down in our hearts? So we can love ourselves, and love others the same as we love ourselves.

So how DO we surrender? Pray, "You win. I'm done. Please, I don't want to do this anymore. I don't want to be God. I want you to decide what's right for me. I surrender to your will."

6. We stop trying to BE God and _____ our lives and others. We tell God _____ and that you want HIM to decide _____ for us. We surrender to His will for us, we DO it, and win His blessings of the fruit of the Spirit.

7. IT'S ALL A MATTER OF _____, _____, AND _____!

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is CONFIDENCE in what we HOPE for and ASSURANCE about what we DO NOT see.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with ALL JOY and PEACE as you TRUST in Him, so that you may OVERFLOW with HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit.

8. _____ and _____, for there's NO other way, to be _____ in Jesus, but to trust and obey. 1 John 2:4-6 Whoever says, "I know him," but does NOT do what He commands is a LIAR, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵ But if anyone OBEYS His word, love for God is TRULY made complete in them. This is how we KNOW we are in Him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did.

9. Proverbs 3:5 – _____ in the Lord with _____ your heart, and lean NOT on YOUR own understanding, but in _____ your ways, acknowledge Him and He _____ direct your path. TRUST and OBEY – for there's NO other way... to be HAPPY in Jesus, but to Trust and Obey!