

1. Joy comes from the Holy Spirit and obeying the word of God. I Thes 1:6
2. We cultivate joy by accepting Christ, praying, and depending on Him Heb 12:2
3. We can maintain joy when we understand that God tests but doesn't tempt us.
4. Joy: Deep internal gladness that things are the way they should because a loving and wise God is in control. This can then be expressed externally.

In life, T.E.S.T.S. happen. When they do, our loving God is asking us these questions:

- T**rust-- Will you turn to, trust and love me—Jesus as Lord? (Ro 10:9, 10)
- E**vangelism—Will you share my Gospel and make disciples ? (Mt 28:19, 20)
- S**anctification—Will you be separate from sin and obey me? (1 Pt 1:13-16)
- T**alents—Will your spiritual gifts/skills for my purposes? (1 Pt 4:10,11)
- S**atisfaction—Will you understand how much I love you ? (1 Jn 3:1)

How well you pass these tests in this life will determine the kinds of responsibilities and rewards you will receive in eternity. "His master said to him, 'Well done, **good and faithful servant**. You were faithful with a **few things**, I will put you in charge of **many things**; enter into the **joy of your master**.'" (Mt 25:21) Psalm 67:1-2;7 says, "God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us. That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations. **God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.**" Our loving Father often tests us to give us opportunities to grow. **Eternity is a _____ to be wrong!**

QUESTIONS:

- 1) How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His Word?
- 2) What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result?
- 3) How do you remain in God's love? What causes you ignore/reject it?
- 4) What is the difference between Jesus as Savior and as Lord? Example(s)...
- 5) How do we stay motivated to keep our focus on Him? Be specific.
- 6) When trials come your way, how do you usually respond? Why?
- 7) What steps are you going to take to pass each test? For example:
 1. The **Trust Test**: I admit that I haven't trusted you with...
 2. The **Evangelism Test**: I'm going to get mentored by.... to learn how to...
 3. The **Talent Test**: I'm going start developing and using my gift of...

What is peace? _____

Eternal Peace: _____

Luke 2:14 *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

Interpersonal Peace: _____

Ro 12:18 *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

Internal Peace: _____

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. Isa 26:3

Phil 4:6-9; Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With **thankful** hearts offer up your **prayers** and **requests** to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel. Finally, my friends, **keep your minds on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper**. Don't ever stop thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise. You know the teachings I gave you, and you know what you heard me say and saw me do. So follow my example. And God, who gives peace, will be with you.

A _____
C _____
T _____
S _____

Questions:

1. Do you have an assurance that you are right with God? How do you know?
2. What steps to reconciliation do you need to take with another? Be specific.
3. How is your prayer and meditation life? Try praying every day using A.C.T.S.
4. Share what you do to renew your mind with what is true, pure, and holy.
5. How did God's truth speak to you this morning from His word?
6. What adjustments do you need to make in your life as a result?