

HOPE PRODUCES JOY

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INTRODUCTION:

A. There is always something or someone trying take our joy from us.

I cried out to the Lord, and He answered me from His holy mountain. Psalm 3:4

I. WE NEED TO JETTISON OUR REGRETS ABOUT OUR PAST

A. What past regrets keep breaking into your life?

- Jettison means "to throw overboard"

B. How to jettison our past regrets (Philippians 3:13):

- Forget them.

...but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past... Philippians 3:13

◦ Understand them

◦ Learn from them

◦ Mourn the loss because of them

◦ Give them to God so you can receive forgiveness and healing

He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who revere him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth...as far from us as the east is from the west.

Psalm 103:10-12

II. WE NEED TO OMIT OUR WORRIES ABOUT THE FUTURE

A. Nothing depletes our hopeful joy more than our worry.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.

Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Philippians 4:6

Give (hand over) all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you.

I Peter 5:7

B. What to when our worries go haywire:

- Change the picture in your mind (it's a choice)
- See the big picture
- Take your life one day at a time
 - Most of what we worry about will never happen
- Look back at what God has done in your life
- Look hopefully towards the future God has in store for you.

III. WE NEED TO YIELD TO GOD'S PURPOSE

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

James 1:2-4

B. When we lack a Divine purpose we often settle for short-term pleasures instead of real, hopeful joy.

I have written...this short letter to you...My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace (purpose) for you. Stand firm in this grace.

I Peter 5:12

CONCLUSION: