

THE PATH OF JOY slides

Jesus' path to joy isn't always clear.

Sinclair Ferguson, 'Lessons from the Upper Room', "It was spiritual. The disciples did not have the insight, the spiritual understanding, or the discernment to grasp what Jesus was saying about the Kingdom of God. They needed illumination. Only then would the truth dawn. Only then would they be able to say, 'Now I see.'"

Romans 8:28, 29 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son..."

James 1:2-4 "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Jesus' path to joy is often through sorrow.

Romans 14:17-18 "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men."

1 Corinthians 15:14, 17-19 "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied."

Ferguson, "True the relationship between the disciples' pain and their coming joy is chronological, but it will also be causal. The pain is productive of the joy. In the life of discipleship, there is a joy that sleakest me through pain...the glory is produced out of the raw material of the suffering, just as out of a woman's labor pains comes the joy of new life."

Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."

Jesus' path to joy involves prayer.

John 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."