

# LOVE

*came down*

## “Just a Sliver?”

Psalm 96:1-13 - Pastor Bruce French

### When does joy come?

1. Joy comes when we \_\_\_\_\_

God's \_\_\_\_\_. Ps. 96:1-6

- Joyful people speak about God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Ps. 96:2; Heb. 4:16

- Joyful people speak about God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Ps. 96:3; Heb. 10:23

- Joyful people speak about God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Ps. 96:4-6; Heb. 2:17-18

2. Joy comes when we \_\_\_\_\_ God's

\_\_\_\_\_. Ps. 96:7-13

- Joyful people think about what is \_\_\_\_\_.

Ps. 96:9; Heb. 4:14-15

- Joyful people think about what is \_\_\_\_\_.

Ps. 96:10; Heb. 13:5-8

- Joyful people think about what is \_\_\_\_\_.

Ps. 96:13; Heb. 12:2-3

### Take Home Truth

Joy comes when we focus on \_\_\_\_\_ rather than

\_\_\_\_\_.

Isaiah 2:5

#### Today's Core Virtue:

Joy: I have inner contentment and joy in spite of my circumstances.  
(from John 15:11)



## Deeper Connection Study

People speak about the joy of Christmas without really considering the source and vibrancy of that joy. How do people experience joy? What causes *you* to rejoice in God? *Today's Core Virtue discussed: Joy.*

### Read Psalm 96

1. In the threefold call to “sing to the Lord,” what three imperatives [commands] are given to the people (vv. 1-3)?
2. Why is our faith in God not merely an inward matter, but also an outward expression? How does the beginning of the psalm promote global missions (cf. Isa. 40:9; 41:27; 52:7; Matt. 28:19)?
3. How is God seen in contrast to idols (vv. 4-5)? What descriptive words are used to express God’s greatness (v. 6)?
4. What is mentioned about God’s sovereignty and rule (vv. 7-13)? What does this reveal about his character?
5. Why does creation rejoice in God (vv. 11-13)? Why is he worthy of worship?
6. “Worship is a way of gladly reflecting back to God the radiance of his worth” (John Piper). How can you demonstrate this in your words and actions? How do you rejoice in God?

**PRAYER TO THE POINT:** Praise God for his greatness and glory! Thank God for his sovereign grace and for putting joy in your heart.

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## Third Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

In this, the third week of Advent, the theme is Joy. Most believers understand that joy is different from happiness. They are aware that happiness is a consequence of favorable circumstances. For example: the person who gets a new car is typically happy. When the first of sixty payments come due, his or, her happiness usually goes away. Joy of course is not dependent upon circumstances. As scripture describes, it is a fruit, or a by-product, of walking closely with the Holy Spirit. However, Paul also taught that joy was a choice. He commanded his readers to “Rejoice in the Lord always,” (cf. Phil. 4:4a).

If we are honest, this is a difficult thing to do. How does the believer choose to be joyful? Isn’t joy an emotion like love or anger, and if so can a person choose to have a particular emotion? As these rhetorical questions indicate, there is some confusion regarding the Bible’s teaching on joy, and even more confusion on how a person experiences joy.

In the passage today, the Psalmist will model for us what actions the person who is experiencing joy is actually taking.

