

reclaiming your joy

The Joy of the Redeemed

Isaiah 35:1-10

August 14, 2022

Introduction: What do you think of when you hear the word Joy? How can Joy become characteristic of our life? What is the difference between happiness and joy? What is the source of the Christian's joy? Who is the source of the Christian's joy? The Bible says God gives us joy and peace. It tells us that real joy comes from God and is ours forever. The joy that is found in God's presence isn't static; it transforms and regenerates us. At the heart of joy is an unshakable awareness that we possess good from God. Joy is part of God's kingdom.

Prayer: Father, through Jesus' own words we know that you not only want us to have joy, but complete joy. Help us to reclaim that joy. Open our hearts and minds to the work of your Spirit that we might understand and apply what we discover in your word. Amen.

Read: Isaiah 35:1-10

Review: What were the results of trying to live by joy this week?

Discussion:

1. What joyful things will happen according to this passage? How do these things encourage you? Which of these things would give you joy?
2. What do verses 3 and 4 call us to do? What do we need to remember about God? What are some practical ways you might respond to this command?
3. What does the highway signify in this scripture? Here are some other texts that talk about ways: Isaiah 40:1-5, Matthew 7:13-14, John 14:6. How do these texts help you understand Isaiah's imagery?
4. Who are you traveling the highway with? How can you be more present with your traveling companions?

Application: Who do you need to encourage this week? Try to put into practice one (or more) of the things you identified in question 2.

Prayer: Father, help us to be your hands and feet to those around us as we strengthen and encourage those who know you and show your love and care who do not yet know you. Amen.