

Jackpot: Complete Joy

Ecclesiastes 3:10-12 (NIV) *I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live.*

Joy isn't something that should be pursued directly. That would be like chasing after the wind. Joy is the byproduct of pursuing God and God's will for your life. God made your heart to crave things that can't be found in this finite world. That way you'd never quit searching until you have found HIM.

Ecclesiastes 12:1,8,13,14 (NIV) *Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them" ... "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Everything is meaningless!" ... Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.*

"Joy is not the same as pleasure. Anyone who has experienced pure joy would never exchange it for mere pleasure. God is the giver of joy. It cannot be attained outside of Him. Because of this, the problem is that joy is never in our power, but pleasure often is. So, in exchange for God-given joy, we substitute it with pleasure, because that's something we can generate ourselves." - John Davidson

Pleasure = Flows Outside In (momentary and shallow) RED SOLO CUP (Ephesians 5:17,18)

Joy = Flows Inside Out (lasting and deep) UNDERGROUND SPRING

John 4:13-15 (NIV) *Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."*

Complete Joy Comes From:

1. Spending _____ in the _____ of **God**. (Psalm 16:11, John 15:9-11)
2. _____ the _____ of **God**. (John 16:24)
3. _____ the _____ of **God**. (John 3:29)
4. _____ with the **people** of **God**. (2 John 1:12)
5. _____ **people** who need **God**. (Philippians 4:1)

6. _____ **people** who want to _____ in **God**. (1 John 1:1-4)
7. Helping **people** _____ the _____ of **God**. (Philippians 2:1,2)
8. _____ the _____ of **God**. (Nehemiah 8:9,10)