

**Discovering Peace and Joy in the Kingdom
Hindrances to Walking in Joy and Peace
Acts 10.9-16;44-46**

February 21, 2010

REVIEW:

1. How does God describe joy? Zeph 3:17
 - Joy is our strength! Nehemiah 8.10
 - Joy can't be explained! 1 Peter 1:8-9
2. How do we receive joy?
 - Joy is a promise in the kingdom Ro.14.17
 - Joy comes through the Word Jer. 15.16/ 1 John 1.4
 - Joy comes when freedom comes Isa 51:11
3. How do we maintain joy?
 - Cruise with joy! Acts 20.24
 - Count it joy! James 1.2-4 Count it all joy in various trials...
 - Call it joy! Heb 12:2 who for the joy...

Intro – When we poll people and they tell us they struggle to walk in peace or joy then there is another question we must ask. What stops you from walking in peace and joy? What are the roadblocks, the hindrances, the issues that keep you from experiencing what your heart longs for. Money, past hurts, divorce, job issues?? And while these are all valid issues, I'm convinced that since peace and joy come in the power of the Spirit, He can deliver in spite of every negative circumstance.

What really stops us from walking in the peace of the kingdom? What is the real roadblock that's in our way? Is it visible or invisible?

1. Religious tradition can hinder joy and peace

- Believing religious lies puts people in bondage
- Limiting what God can do and who He can do it with
- The way you always did it is not always the way

There are so many people who are set in their "unsuccessful ways"! God has to explode into their life in order to get their attention so He can do what He wants to do.

2. Unforgiveness can block joy and peace.

- Forgive yourself and walk away from the past
- Forgive others and get released from their drama Heb 12:14-15

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Acts 10.9-16;44-46

14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

- Unforgiveness stops your prayers and your growth. Mt.6.15/Ps.66.18

15 "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.

3. Inability to follow instruction can stop joy and peace!

The balance of moving into the new is moving into the new with guidance and instruction! Not just doing your own thing because that will not produce joy and peace. It will eventually just create greater frustration.

- Peter had to follow the directions the Lord gave him. Vs. 15

15 Again a voice came to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy."

- Peter had to follow the guides that had been sent to him. Vs 20

"But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself."

- Peter had to follow truth even though it went against his own nature Acts 10:34-36

"I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, 35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him. NASU