

SEVEN THINGS THAT STEAL YOUR JOY

Week 1

Living By Sight

7/9/2006

*The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.
John chapter 10, verse 10 (819)*

We can't experience joy without faith!

*Afterward the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great." But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since I don't have a son, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. You have given me no children, so one of my servants will have to be my heir." Then the LORD said to him, "No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own to inherit everything I am giving you." Then the LORD brought Abram outside beneath the night sky and told him, "Look up into the heavens and count the stars if you can. Your descendants will be like that-too many to count!" And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD declared him righteous because of his faith.
Genesis chapter 15, verses 1-6 (12)*

I am living by sight when:

I try to make it happen!

But Sarai, Abram's wife, had no children. So Sarai took her servant, an Egyptian woman named Hagar, and gave her to Abram so she could bear his children. "The LORD has kept me from having any children," Sarai said to Abram. "Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed. Genesis chapter 16 verses 1-2 (12)

Are You Holding on Too Tightly?

- When we try to manufacture our own joy we can produce deep consequences.
- Identify the manipulation in your life.
- Joy is a fruit of God's Spirit. It has to come from Him.
- A desire to fully control our circumstances squeezes out joy.
- Joy comes when we seek God's way not our own.
- Release your grip on your life.

You have to get to the point where you can be happy without having what you want, or you will never get it.

I am living by sight when...

I believe God is bound by my circumstances

*And since Abraham and Sarah were both very old, and Sarah was long past the age of having children, she laughed silently to herself. "How could a worn-out woman like me have a baby?" she thought. "And when my master-my husband-is also so old?" Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, 'Can an old woman like me have a baby?' Is anything too hard for the LORD? About a year from now, just as I told you, I will return, and Sarah will have a son."
Genesis chapter 18, verses 11-14 (12)*

- It is impossible for God to be bound by anything.
- God is not bound by the consequences of my sin.
- Don't let circumstances or people limit your spiritual potential.
- You can experience joy in bad circumstances.
- God loves to show himself strong in the lives of those who are committed to him.

What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what -we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. Hebrews chapter 11 verse 1 (926)

A strong trust in God does not mean I walk around with a fake smile.

I am living by sight when...

I am more concerned with the external than the internal.

And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD declared him righteous because of his faith. Genesis chapter 16, verse 1 (12)

God was more pleased to give Abraham righteousness than to give him a Son.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us- they help us learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us, and character strengthens our confident expectation of salvation.

Romans chapter 5, verses 3-4 (858)

I am living by sight when...

I believe the gift is more important than the giver.

- ✓ Tell God that he is all you need!!
- ✓ Remember he is a jealous God.
- ✓ Set aside tune and adjust priorities appropriately to show God he is #1.

"When we want something so badly that we cannot be happy without it, it is no longer a normal, godly desire. It has become a lust. If there is anything in life that is more important to us than God, He is not going to give it to us." Joyce Meyers

Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ. Philippians chapter 3 verse 8 (901)

This study is based on the book "Seven Things that Steal Your Joy" by Joyce Meyers
Next Week: Religion