

Spiritual Discipline: Celebration

Psalm 16:11 (NET)

*You lead me
in the path of life;
I experience absolute joy
in your presence;
you always give me sheer delight.*

1. Do you enjoy God? If so, how do you express your enjoyment?
2. How would you define biblical joy?
3. In the Old Testament, celebration is often tied in with the Jewish festivals. Read Deuteronomy 16:9-12 and 16:13-17 that describe some of these festivals. Compare the similarities of these two passages and then answer the following questions.
 - a. Where does the theme of joy show up in the text?
 - b. How does the concept of celebration tie in with obedience?
 - c. How did these celebrations benefit the people?
 - d. How did these celebrations benefit God?
4. From your personal experience of attending church, which has been more true: a) the church is a place to celebrate or b) the church is a gathering of party-poopers? When God commanded His people to celebrate festivals, what do you think they looked like?
5. What are some good examples of celebrations of which you have been a part? Describe what made these celebrations so memorable.
6. What are the pit-falls of excessive celebration and how do we guard against these pitfalls without stifling our joy in the process?
7. What are some practical things we can do this week to experience the discipline of celebration?
8. How can a spirit of celebration help us practice the other disciplines we've discussed this semester: study, simplicity, submission, meditation, fellowship, worship, service, and rest?