

THE HEALTHY SOUL, PART 3: REJOICING

Discussion Questions 1.0

Introduction

1. Share a story of a Christian ministry which you have seen that has been productive far beyond the human resources involved. What was the evidence of its fruitfulness for the kingdom?
2. What did the leader say or do to make this happen? What attitude did the leader display? Was this, in your opinion, a part of the reason for the fruitfulness?

2 Corinthians 13:11 (NASB or ESV), 1 Thessalonians 5:16

1. How does it make you feel to read that you are commanded to rejoice? What is the difference between what God wants you to do and being insane? How do you respond when a command of the Lord sounds silly to you?
2. List places where the Bible mentions laughter, if you can find them (try Eccl. 2:1-2; Luke 6:21; 6:25). What makes people laugh? Is it the same thing which makes them rejoice?

Romans 8:38-39

1. Name some desperate things people do in the quest to love and be loved. Ever do something like that yourself? Share it with the group if you feel comfortable doing so.
2. Describe a time when the love you were expecting from someone else failed you. Have you ever failed someone else in this way?
3. What must we do to appropriate the truth that the love of the invisible God will never fail us? What is God not promising? What is he promising?

John 5:21, 24, 17:3, 6:40

1. Describe the definition of eternal life in your own words. Share with the group aspects of your life which give evidence of eternal life, things which were not in your life before you began following Christ.
2. What does your possession of those things mean to you?
3. What is the difference between eternal life and merely living forever (6:40)? Is there a scenario where living forever would be a bad thing?
4. How does the knowledge of the possession of eternal life change the way you face the challenges of life? How does it change the conduct of ministry?

Philippians 4:19, 6-7

1. Does God's promise to supply all your need mean that you will always have what you think you need? What does it mean? How should you respond when something you thought you needed is not provided?
2. How does Phil. 4:7 come to pass in your life? Describe an incident in your life where you found yourself lacking something, prayed for it, and still did not get it. How did this affect you? What did you do to fulfill the command to "Be anxious for nothing"?

Romans 8:28, Psalm 84:11

1. What does it mean that God is always good when our loved ones die, the creek rises, the company fails, and people reject us?
2. Can the goodness of a circumstance from God's hand always be discerned here on earth? What should a believer do when it does not?

Conclusion

1. List some ways that you are helped to draw near to God and experience his presence.
2. How would you advise someone who obviously needs to experience God in a personal way?