

**July 16, 2023**

Surprised by Joy

John 16:16-33

John faithfully records the disciples' doubts, misunderstandings, and anxieties. These increase as Jesus moves closer to the cross and leaving the disciples. They believe their life will be characterized by sadness and gloom without Jesus. That is not true. Much to their surprise, Jesus tells them their lives will be one of joy, even after the crucifixion and resurrection. Today, the life of a believer is still characterized by joy.

**Additional Verses:**

Isaiah 26:17-19

Matthew 28:11-15

1 Corinthians 15:54-55

Galatians 5:1

**Outline:**

1. The joy of a believer is revealed in times of sorrow.

2. The joy of a believer is resistant to all attacks.

3. The joy of a believer is renewed by answered prayer.

4. The joy of a believer is secured by a triumphant Jesus

**Study Questions:**

1. How is joy revealed during sorrow? How have you experienced this joy?

2. What are some ways Satan, or the world tries to steal your joy? What is the one thing trying to take away your joy right now? How does your joy in Jesus withstand this attack?

3. How does answered prayer renew a believer's joy? When has your joy been renewed by answered prayer?

4. What does it mean that Jesus has overcome the world? How do you daily live in this truth?

5.. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to God today?