



SERIES: July Series “OFF ROADING”

SPEAKER: JACOB WIRKA

Saturday, July 17, 2021

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:6-9

TITLE: Joy In Any Circumstance

[Guest speaker Jacob Wirka]

As a junior high Bible teacher, I see a bunch of tired teenagers every day at 8 am. Sometimes students ask me, “How do you have so much energy this early?” I’ll admit that I’m not naturally a morning person, and I’m not always in a good mood, but when I go into that classroom at 8 a.m., there’s a reason for my joy.

Today, I want to explore how and why we can have joy in any circumstance as Christians. The letter of First Peter was written to churches experiencing suffering and persecution from the people around them. To encourage them through their trials, Peter writes this in Chapter 1, verses 6- 9 (NIV):

“6 In all this, you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

The passage says that the end result of their faith is the salvation of their souls. Recently, I’ve been challenged by what Salvation is all about. Many Christians, including myself, focus on the things we don’t have to experience because of our faith in Jesus. We don’t have to worry about death or Hell. But what do we look forward to receiving? Salvation brings us back to God; that’s what we look forward to! We get to be with God forever.

This hope of being with God should fill us with an inexpressible joy! Sometimes, I forget that joy is different than happiness. Happiness is determined by your circumstances; joy is a hopeful gladness we can have no matter what.

Like the church Peter is writing to, our lives are filled with trials and many ups and downs. But those trials have a purpose, to strengthen our faith. Trials force us to look past our circumstances and look forward to the hope we have of being with Jesus eternally!

I was just down in Florida for only a few days. On my trip, I was determined to make the most of every moment, no matter what, because I knew I was there for a short time. I knew that where I was, was not my home. In a much bigger way, this world, in our present circumstances good or

bad, is not the end. We are only here for a short time, so through the trials of this life, we should make the most of every opportunity to glorify God, especially when suffering. Because we know that one day, we will be with Him forever, no matter what! That's a reason to find joy in any circumstance.