

Don't Steal My Joy

Proverbs 17:20-22

Proverbs 17:20-22 NKJV

²⁰ He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, and he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.

²¹ He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.

²² A merry heart does good, *like* medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones."

Introduction

Proverbs: The Book of Solutions – The Wisdom Book

- Proverbs is **Mashal** in Hebrew meaning “To Rule” or “To be like”
 - Contrasts and compels
- Proverbs gives us insight
- Major themes are wisdom and folly

Key Truth: Proverbs are simple moral statements or illustrations that highlight and teach fundamental realities about life to bring divine truth into proper focus, enabling us to look at life through God’s eyes

Scripture Insight: God has made us in such a way that joy and humor are meant to be vital parts of our life

Introduction

Proverbs: The Book of Solutions – The Wisdom Book

Proverbs contains biblical theology, reflecting themes of scripture brought to the level of practical righteousness by addressing man's ethical choices, calling into question how he thinks, lives, and manages his daily life in light of divine truth.

Proverbs calls man to live as the Creator intended when He made him. (Psalms 90: 1,2,12)

Bible Study Recap

Week 1

Bridling our tongue -
Proverbs 17:20

- How do we develop a character that **pleases** the Lord?
- How are we commanded to related to others?
- The tongue of the wise brings healing it is not accusatory, belittling, manipulative, mocking, insulting, rash, or condemning

Week 2

The Scoffer & The Fool -
Proverbs 17:21

- A scoffer is mocks or ridicules others for their beliefs
- A fool refuses to listen to wisdom and learn from discipline
- **Ephesians 6:4** "and you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord"

Week 3

The Scoffer & The Fool -
Proverbs 17:21-22

- **Luke 18:16** "But Jesus called them to Him and said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of God'"
- God is the perfect parent and the greatest parenting style we can adopt is to train up our children in His ways, lest they become scoffers and fools

What does JOY mean?

- Joy **is**...
 - **Non-negotiable**
 - **Irreplaceable**
 - **Immeasurable**
 - **Valuable**
 - **Therapeutic**
 - **Medicinal**
 - **Attractive**
- Joy is **NOT**...
 - **Circumstantial**
 - **Diminishable**
 - **A product of the environment**
 - **Temporary**
 - **Harmful**
 - **Sorrowful**
 - **Attention-seeking**

Psalms 51:12 - "Restore unto me the joy of my salvation..."

Psalms 16:11 - "...In Your presence is fullness of joy..."

Key Truth: The joy of the Lord carries you through difficult and challenging situations.

Prayer: May the Lord give you genuine reasons to be excited and fulfilled, because depression is destructive, nothing sustains affliction.

Service Objective: Understanding What Steals Joy

Proverbs 17:22

- Joyful is **Simha** in Hebrew with root word **Samach** meaning “to be glad, happy, or joyful”
 - Choosing to rejoice, to consider the good that God has done
 - Choosing **not** to be crushed in spirit, sad, discouraged

Proverbs 12:25 - “Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad

Proverbs 15:13,15 - “¹³ A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. ¹⁵ All the days of the afflicted are evil, but he who is of a merry heart *has* a continual feast.”

Service Objective: Understanding What Steals Joy

Proverbs 17:22

- Real happiness is always determined by the state of the heart
- The opposite of a joyful heart is a “crushed spirit” that “dries up the bones”
 - A heart that cannot rejoice in the Lord, has become doubtful and cynical

Key Truth: The heart is the center of individual life, and the condition and tone of the heart communicates itself to this life, even to its outermost circumference – what is inside must come out

Key Truth: A joyful heart brings great benefits to all that we are, a broken spirit brings harm to the whole person.

Not a broken spirit out of repentance

Service Objective: Understanding What Steals Joy

Proverbs 17:22

- Real happiness is always determined by the state of the heart
- No cloud can overshadow a true Christian, but his faith will discern a rainbow in it - Thomas Hartwell Horne

Key Truth: A joyful heart may not always show itself with a smile, but even when it is not in happy circumstances, it is confident that an eternal weight of glory is being prepared for us (2 Corinthians 4:17)

Key Truth: The true test of your faith is not your attitude in times of peace, but your disposition in times of crisis.

Service Objective: Understanding What Steals Joy

The Child of God's Responsibility

- Defend your joy (1 Samuel 30:5-6)
- Remain encouraged
- Do not be ignorant to the enemy's devices

Key Truth: The enemy fights joy in the life of Christians because of the purpose, importance, and relevance of joy.

2 Corinthians 2:11: "lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."

Key Truth: Satan's design is to destroy the mutual forgiveness, love, and unity that characterizes God's people as those that have been reconciled to God through Christ

Service Objective: Understanding What Steals Joy

The Child of God's Responsibility

- Leave the baggage of the past where it belongs
- Cast your burdens to the feet of Jesus
- Seek to maintain a joyful heart

Key Truth: Sometimes we will have seasons when we are disappointed, crushed, discouraged and depressed.

Key Truth: We must not allow misfortunes, disappointments, bereavements which pose as dark clouds to hinder us from seeing the sun and most importantly, the sun of righteousness.

Unspeakable Joy

Key Truth: The joy that is good for the soul and the body is the joy that we find first in the Lord and then in the simple pleasures that He has created for human beings

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Our joy glorifies God and it benefits us.
The Lord has ordained that what glorifies
Him is what is good for us.

The ultimate source of joy is found in a
relationship with Christ.