



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

August 18, 2013

Soul Rx

desert breeze community church

Psalm16 "Fullness of Joy"

God is closer than you think & more eager to connect with you than you could ever dream or imagine & nothing will bring you greater fullness of joy.

What is the Key to Fullness of Joy?

- ◆ Practicing the Presence of God! v11

What does it mean to Practice the Presence of God?

v8

- ◆ Not only does everything I have come from God, but life has no meaning apart from God. (v1-2; Act17:28; James1:17; Phil1:21)
- ◆ Spiritual growth is simply increasing my capacity through spiritual disciplines to practice the presence of God. (v3; Acts 2:42-27; 1Tim4:7-8)
- ◆ Anything more important to us than God is an idol & will control us as we seek it, disappoint us if we get it & devastate us if we lose it. (v4; Ex20:3; Rom1:25)
- ◆ Every aspect of my life is important to God and He is always at work in my life whether I see Him or not. (vv5-6; Matt6:25-34; John2:1-11)
- ◆ I can learn to recognize and enjoy God's presence by living in the moment. (vv7-8; Gen28:16-17)
- ◆ When I fail to live in the moment I can start again right away because every thought can either move me closer or further away from God. (vv8-11; Rom8:5-8; Pro4:23; Phil.4:8)

- ◆ I will experience security & satisfaction to the degree I learn to practice the Presence of God. (vv8, 11; 23:4; 46:1; 91:1)

Both Peter (Acts2:25-28) & Paul (Acts13:35) tell us that these verses are about the Lord Jesus Christ and that through faith in Him we can have fullness of joy by practicing the presence of God.



Growing

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- 1) The promise of God's presence (Heb13:5-6) is not some abstract theological concept but a vibrant, moment by moment intimate connection with a deeply personal God that will bring you fullness of joy. What are your thoughts? Do you think most Christians are living in the reality of this truth? Why or why not?
- 2) Read Psalm 16. What do you like best about this Psalm? Some commentators believe David is facing death or threat to his life (note vv1, 10). What is David's general disposition in this Psalm?
- 3) What is the key to fullness of joy (v11)? Why would practicing the presence of God be more like a thermostat vs. thermometer in dealing with life's difficulties? Bro. Lawrence a French monk from the 1600's defined Practicing the Presence of God as a "continuing conversation with God." What are your thoughts? Is this definition helpful? Explain.
- 4) Paraphrase verse 8. How does v8 help you to better understand what it means to practice the presence of God? Review the 7 statements from the sermon notes of what it means to practice the presence of God along with any cross references that may help you to understand. Which one(s) were most insightful?
- 5) What are you now thinking, feeling and wanting to do in response to this study? Why do you think it's important to know that these verses are ultimately about Jesus (Acts2:25-28; Acts13:35)? Pray.