

### *More Than Random - Joy*

*1 Peter 1:3–9*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

1. Joy is a defining and ever-growing aspect of a follower of Jesus
2. The world has multiple counterfeits of joy
3. Joy is a feeling of the soul, not the flesh

### More Than Random

Questions for Fellowship Groups Week of May 28-June 3

Over the last few months Michael has been leading us through a series called More Than Random. What are a few of those topics that you remember that Michael has addressed. (Hint: Think the fruit of spirit Galatians 5 kind of stuff.) Give group members time to respond and mention how God has used these messages to teach/remind them of the importance of allowing God to work through us.

This week Michael shared a message focusing on Joy. Ask, what are some of the things that you seek out to bring you joy?

Say, Many believers at times confuse happiness with joy. The verses we discovered this week focused on “according to God’s great mercy” . . . This really causes one to pause when we try to manufacture happiness or good vibes. Joy is based upon on God and who we are in Him, it is not based upon our circumstances. That is when counterfeits rear their ugly heads we either try to find comfort in something or we try to take control to “make things better.”

Ask, What are some possible counterfeits that you have relied upon for your happiness rather than basking in God’s joy? (As the host, it would be good for you to share something that is currently something you are continuing to overcome or not.)

Say, Michael pointed out that joy is a feeling of the soul and not of the flesh. Ask, Since we many times long for a “feeling”, are there any practical steps you have taken or are willing to take to lean in and trust that reminds you that joy comes through Christ alone. (Allow time for responses.)

Ask, What is one way that we can support you in your desire to trust in Christ and experience joy that comes from Christ alone? (Some examples may be not allowing people to share gossip

with you; being accountable to ask how they are doing in their spiritual walk – outside of the Friendship Group time via text, phone calls, etc.) (*For many this may be a very large step in them trusting others in the group with sharing some of their personal struggles in experiencing joy. Be careful to not judge nor placate sin. As a host, be discerning to extend both truth and grace in a way that helps those in the group be confronted with sin practice and also be a recipient of grace.*)