

# WELLSPRING

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## W O R S H I P C E N T E R

### Christmas Joy Reflection Questions 12/17/2023

1. Which of these definitions of “joy” is the most encouraging:
  - a. the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires
  - b. an inward peace and sufficiency that is not affected by outward circumstances
  - c. the childlike wonder and excitement of working with God instead of working for God
2. Were you surprised that Peter wrote in 1 Peter 3:10 “for the one who wants to love life...” In your Christian walk, do you feel like you have permission to “love life”?
3. In reference to the Winnie the Pooh analogy, would you like to have the “Tigger anointing” of joy?
4. In Psalm 37:4 “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart,” did you realize that the person delighting themselves in the Lord is doing so in the midst of unfulfilled desires?
5. If joy is a choice, How can we “rejoice in the Lord” when there are still challenges in our lives and personal weaknesses we are battling?
6. James 1 tells us to “count it all joy when we encounter trials”. What did you think of the statement, “Every trial in your life has a God designed growth mechanism built into it.”
7. What did you think of the analogy of carrying a backpack of attitudes and habits up the “mountain of joy” realizing that certain things can no longer be carried the backpack (offense, critical spirit, pessimism)?
8. If receiving God’s joy requires an exchange (beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for grief, a garment of praise for a spirit of heaviness) what is our role in making this exchange? Why are we tempted to hold onto past issues that block God’s joy in our lives?
9. Did you agree with the statement, “I am not perfect in my performance, but because of my belief in Christ, I am perfect in my position before God”?