

# Living in Joy and Peace

by A.W. Tozer

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*A.W. Tozer's sermon explores the significance of joy and peace in the Christian life, warning against spiritual imbalances like gloominess and overscrupulosity.*

**Scripture:** Nehemiah 8:10, Psalm 16:11, Romans 14:17, Philippians 4:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**Topics:** "Joy in the Christian Life", "Balance in Faith"

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## Description

A.W. Tozer emphasizes the importance of living in joy and peace, warning against the dangers of becoming overly serious or scrupulous in our faith. He points out that gloominess is not a sign of godliness but rather a defect of character, and that joy serves as a therapeutic remedy for the mind. Tozer cautions that excessive concern for pleasing God can lead to a constricted life filled with distress, which is not a true reflection of faith. He encourages believers to embrace joy and balance in their spiritual journey, recognizing that a healthy conscience should not lead to self-torture.

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## Transcript

There are areas in our lives where in our effort to be right we may go wrong, so wrong as to lead to spiritual deformity. To be specific let me name a few: 4. When we seek to be serious and become somber. The saints have always been serious, but gloominess is a defect of character and should never be equated with godliness. Religious melancholy may indicate the presence of unbelief or sin and if long continued may lead to serious mental disturbance. Joy is a great therapeutic for the mind. "Rejoice in the Lord alway" (Phil. 4:4). 5. When we mean to be conscientious and become overscrupulous. If the devil cannot succeed in destroying the conscience he will settle for making it sick.

I know Christians who live in a state of constant distress, fearing that they may displease God.

Their world of permitted acts becomes narrower year by year till at last they fear to engage in the common pursuits of life. They believe this self-torture to be a proof of godliness, but how wrong they are. These are but a few examples of serious imbalance in the Christian life. I trust the remedy has been suggested as we went along.

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