

Secrets to Joyful Living – Part 1

Joy is the Birthright and Expectation of **Every** True Believer in Jesus Christ!

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" – John 7:38 (NASB)

The saddest people in the world are Christian Atheists.

Only fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and their actions are evil; not one of them does good! – Psalm 14:1 (NLT)

Christian Atheists

Know Jesus	No Jesus
Know Joy	No Joy

Our Problem Today – DISTRACTIONS!

1. **F** _____ your energies.

*... but **one thing** I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, - Philippians 3:13 (NASB)*

- a. **O** _____ Thing.

- b. **F** _____ what lies behind.

- Past failures
- Past **s** _____.
- People who have hurt you
- People you are trying to please
- Past circumstances that you are trying to **R** _____.
- Memories that hold you back

- c. **F** _____ on God

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 3:14 (NLT)

2. Having worthwhile goals

- a. Avoid **C** _____.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. – John 10:10 (NASB)

Counterfeits to Joy

Alcohol	D _____ the Pain
Money	Escape the Pain
Sex	F _____ the Pain (for a little while)
Friends/Family	H _____ from the Pain
A _____	Deny the Pain
Human Security	Delay the Pain
Education	I _____ the Pain

* Nothing Destroys the Pain of living in a fallen world except Jesus!

b. Invest in the **G**_____ stuff.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; - Matthew 6:19-20 (NASB)

c. **J**_____ (Kingdom of God)

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. 46 When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it! – Matthew 13:45-46 (NLT)

Answers:

1. Focusing; a) One; b) Forgetting, Successes, Relive; c) Focus

2. a) Counterfeits;

From Chart: Deaden, Forget, Hide, Accomplishments, Increases

b) Good; c) Jesus