

May 12, 2024

## **A Life Filled with Joy is Not Without Hardship**

[John 17:6-19](#)

*“But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.”*

At this time in His earthly walk on Earth, Jesus knew what was in store for Him.

He knew that he would soon accomplish His earthly work and be an atoning sacrifice for our sins. He spent much time teaching His disciples, but in this passage, we find Him praying for His disciples.

He was praying for the unity of the disciples, but also that they would find joy fulfilled in their lives.

This may seem strange to some as most of Jesus’ disciples were later martyred in trying to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Although their lives were painfully cut short, we can know that they experienced joy in their earthly ministry and later in Heaven.

Like the disciples, we also are able to have joy.

Life is hard. Illness and deaths of family member and friends, job losses, broken relationships, and more struggles can take their toll.

God has a plan for our life, and that does not mean we will be without struggle and hardship. There will be difficult times, but there will be joy as well. It is our job as Christians to spread that joy and light into other people’s lives.

***Prayer:*** *Heavenly Father, thank you for being a God of joy in the midst of difficult times. Grant us joy and peace as we seek to follow You through the difficult times. Amen.*

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