

Thoughts on How to Have a Joyful Home

Christ is not only a remedy for your weariness and trouble, but He will give you an abundance of the contrary: joy and delight. They who come to Christ do not only come to a resting-place after they have been wandering in a wilderness, but they come to a banqueting-house where they may rest and where they may feast. They may cease from their former troubles and toils, and they may enter upon a course of delights and spiritual joys.
Jonathan Edwards

He upholds the whole creation, founded the earth, and still sustains it by the word of His power. What cannot He do in the affairs of families and kingdoms, far beyond our conception and expectation, He who hangs the earth upon nothing? *Matthew Henry*

I can't have a joyful home if I don't have children that I can enjoy! To keep it short and sweet, the website that I visit often for great practical tips and biblical references to training my young ones is: www.raisinggodlytomatoes.com She also has a book, but I've only used her website. My kids are far from perfect and I'm far from being a perfect mom, but this woman has offered me a huge helping of sanity and guidance in raising my little ones. Check it out, even if it's just to find out what "raising godly tomatoes" means. I can say that most days I have a joyful home because my children bring me much joy. I praise God for His blessing in that and that He has inspired this woman to share her insights. I've been reaping the benefits!

A child of God should be a visible beatitude for happiness and a living doxology for gratitude.
Charles H. Spurgeon

To have a joyful home, the brethren have to dwell together in unity. Since we homeschool, the brethren had better get along because the brethren are all here in the same house all day. Part of our curriculum has been Conflict Resolution, (or how to disagree with your brother/sister amiably,) the importance of a Clear Conscience (or how to ask for forgiveness,) Overlooking Offenses, (or "Just remember, she is only five years old") and Respecting Private Property (or how to stay on your side of the room and not touch other people's belongings without permission.) These subjects are taught and re-taught frequently, and to the degree that we all put them into practice, we have a corresponding degree of peace in our home. Once we have that peace, we can move on to the next level, which is learning to actually enjoy each other's company. There is a very sweet and tangible joy in experiencing genuine appreciation and love for the other members of your family, especially when everyone is getting along well. That is the most joyful part of our home, when we all are living together in harmony, and loving each other the way we have been commanded!

Our hope in Christ for the future is the mainstream of our joy. *Charles H. Spurgeon*

Personal experience has taught me "joy" does not mean "happy" as much as it means "contentment"this would indicate a skill which is learned or developed through practice.....In rearing my own family, I am thankful to recall our three children brought plenty of "joy" to the home, i.e. "chaos", "calamity", "catastrophe" But, the real "joy" came from an inner peace which could only be claimed through walking in faith to the Father.....one thing my husband and I always wanted each other and our children to know is, when they walked into our home, we were in a "safe" place....we could share our burdens, but develop our "joy" in our struggles....Home is where you long to be.....and where you find most enjoyment.

Rejoicing is a matter of obedience to God – an obedience that will start you on the road to peace and contentment.
Kay Arthur
Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Ph. 4: 4

A quick note on the joyful home: I think a contented wife is the key to a joyful home. Great music in the background is helpful and family prayer is also a great way to promote good relationships and real joy.

If you want to hear God's voice clearly and you are uncertain, then remain in His presence until He changes that uncertainty. Often much can happen during this waiting for the Lord. Sometimes He changes pride into humility; doubt into faith and peace ...

Corrie Ten Boom

My one and only suggestion is to make sure mama has a quiet time each morning. It sets the tone for the whole day for her, and she is the barometer of the house.

God knows everything. He can manage everything, and He loves us. Surely this is enough for a fullness of joy that is beyond words. ***Hannah Whitall Smith***

Joy is the fruit of God's Spirit (Gal. 5:22) I have learned that it can come only from the Lord. What has helped is learning that "all my springs of joy" must come from Him (Ps. 87:7b). A quiet time for me is a must. It has varied in style and length over the years depending on the stage of life at the time. I NEED time with the Lord to quiet my heart and spirit no matter the circumstances of life.

It helped when the children were little to make a concerted effort to straighten things around the house before my husband came home. Orderliness has a calming, peaceful effect. (The orderliness did not often last long with children, but it was a blessing for a short time.) It set the tone to help welcome him home with joy.

Being thankful helped me experience more joy and set the tone for our home. Again it was the focus on God and His gracious provision that caused me to well up with joy even in the most difficult of circumstances. With joy also comes strength, an added blessing, "...for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Neh. 8:10b

In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him. ***C. S. Lewis***

Submitted from a blog site by CJ Mahaney's wife and daughters, www.girltalk.blogs.com

There is nothing special about today. It is not a holiday. It's not my birthday or wedding anniversary. I am not celebrating any particular milestone in my life. It's simply another ordinary day, filled with the usual commonplace tasks: cooking, cleaning, laundry, caring for the needs of my family....

And yet author Samuel Ward has reminded me that though ordinary, this day should be like a holiday, a celebration. I should have a Christmas-like spirit on this rainy September day, because, as Mr. Ward writes:

"It is sad to see a Christian pursuing joy in coarse and earthly pleasures when he has more noble and angelical delights, second only in degree and manner of enjoyment to heaven itself. Our faith takes us to the third heaven. We roll and tumble our souls in beds of roses, that is, our meditations of justification, sanctification, and salvation through Christ. No day should pass without these enjoyments. Should not our soul have her due drinks, breakfasts, meals, snacks, and desserts, as well as our body? Cannot such meditations make pleasant work of our daily tasks? They would make time pass by like a boat with full wind and tide, needing no oars. They would make all of our days like holidays and celebrations." Check out posts for 3/13/06 and 3/21/06!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Romans 15:13**

Some thoughts that I had (since I've really been struggling with a joyful home/joyful attitude, especially with a little 2 year old darlin') especially after reading a book that Susan Quiroz let me borrow that had a section on Joy. Most of the time, the atmosphere of the home centers heavily on my (the wife's/mom's attitude). After reading the book *Created to Be His Help Meet*, I really became aware of the state of my heart! So I have really tried to be aware of how my attitude is throughout the day and have prayed for a more joyful, thankful heart, and the Lord is answering that prayer little by little. A key to joy is thanksgiving and contentment -- even on the hard days!! Secondly, one thing that tends to make us all joyful is *work*! The kids and I all worked in our yard last week, and they worked so hard and diligently, and we were so happy and joyful after we had finished. We were dirty and tired, but we had done something together as a team, and it was great!

When once we are assured that God is good, then there can be nothing left to fear.
Hannah Whitall Smith

The atmosphere of the home so often depends on the attitude of the wife/mother, so I think it's extremely important for the woman to be at peace with herself and with God, to be content, and to give her worries to God and not to her husband or children. If the home is not joyful, many times it's probably because the woman of the house is not joyful.

I find that clutter and disorder are joy stealers. A clean, neat home contributes to joy for the wife/mother as well as for her husband and children.

Daily prayer with your spouse is a joy giver. It relieves stress by taking problems and concerns to the only One who can take care of the situation. There's nothing like it to get you and your husband on the same page.

I find that praise music and hymns or good Christian programming on WCRV 640 while I'm doing housework is a spirit-lifter.

Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.
Psalm 16:11

He himself is our Joy! He is sufficient! We of all people have reason for joy – for in Him we have joy everlasting. Part of a joyful home to me is also celebrating special times with much joy. Our family traditions of celebrating Advent to prepare for Christmas, remembering God's providence in the founding of our nation, holding a Christian Passover, and reflecting over each day of the week leading up to the Resurrection of Jesus are special ways of celebrating the Joy of belonging to Christ! We are still working on what it means to celebrate the Sabbath, but a weekly celebration sounds good to me! If we are not filled with the Joy of the Lord, why would our children want to imitate our faith and why would anyone else want to know our Lord?

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him.
Psalm 33:1

Be a joyful wife and mother :+).

Holy activity is the mother of holy joy. *Charles H. Spurgeon*

Joy stealers: Lack of forgiveness and Fear

Are you unaware of the joy-stealing effect an unforgiving spirit is having on your life?
Charles Swindoll

Forgiveness is the precondition of love. Our relationships with others are of primary importance to God. Because God is love, He cannot tolerate any unforgiveness or hardness in us toward any individual. *Catherine Marshall*

Forgiveness is the key that unlocks the door of resentment and the handcuffs of hate. It is a power that breaks the chains of bitterness and the shackles of selfishness.
Corrie Ten Boom

**Daniel looked into the face of God and would not fear the face of a lion. (and)
The fear of God is the death of every other fear.** *Charles H. Spurgeon*

The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.
George Mueller

Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised!