BIBLE STUDY

Active Faith V: JOY CREATES A COMPELLING TESTIMONY

Psalm 40:1–3; Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)

JOY CREATES A COMPELLING TESTIMONY

When faith moves us to obey God, obedience creates expectancy, expectancy produces boldness, and boldness releases joy. That joy becomes visible evidence of what God can do through a life that trusts Him.

I. Your joy should make somebody want to know your Jesus

The purpose of our faith is not simply to make us feel better; it is to make our lives look different.

- Faith is not just something we profess; it is something we demonstrate.
- Joy is not simply an emotion we experience; it is a testimony we exhibit.
- Our joy should cause people to ask questions about the God we serve.
- A compelling testimony is a life that makes the goodness, faithfulness, and power of God difficult to ignore.

People may not read the Bible, but they are constantly reading the lives of believers. For example, a restaurant does not have to tell you the food is good when customers keep coming back, enjoy their experience, and bring others with them. Their experience becomes the advertisement. Likewise, when believers demonstrate genuine joy, even in difficult circumstances, their lives become an invitation for others to discover Jesus.

II. Understanding the connection: joy creates a compelling testimony

Consider the progression of our Active Faith series:

Previous lesson	What it produces
Faith is obedience	*Movement toward God*
Obedience creates expectancy	*Confidence that God will respond*
Expectancy produces boldness	*Courage to approach and act*
Boldness releases joy	*Freedom from shame and fear*
Joy creates a compelling testimony	*A visible demonstration of God's goodness*

The progression: What begins as an inward decision to trust God eventually becomes an outward demonstration that influences others.

III. Three ways joy creates a compelling testimony

1. Joy changes what people see - Acts 3:1–8

The man at the Beautiful Gate had been lame from birth. He was accustomed to being carried and placed where he could beg. But after encountering The power of Jesus through Peter and John, his condition and conduct changed.

Notice what happened:

- He received strength in his feet and ankles. -v.7
- He stood, walked, and entered the temple. - v.8
- He was walking, leaping, and praising God. - v.8

His encounter with Jesus produced visible evidence.

A. Joy changes our disposition. v.8 We no longer have to allow our circumstances to dictate our attitude. Our confidence in God changes how we respond to life.

B. Joy changes our demonstration. v.9 People should see something different about how we live. Our actions should reflect the God we claim to trust. Joy should be evident in our worship, relationships, service, and daily conduct.

When Jesus changes your life, people ought to be able to see the difference. What is somebody seeing in your life that demonstrates you have been with Jesus?

2. Joy creates questions people want answered -Scripture: Acts 3:9–10

A. Joy makes our transformation noticeable.

- People remember where we were. v.10
- They notice how we respond differently.
- They see evidence that something has happened in our lives.

B. Joy makes our testimony believable. – Matthew 5:16

- Our lives should support our confession.
- Our behavior should reinforce our beliefs.

Supporting Scripture: Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) - Your joy should make people curious about your Jesus.

3. Joy creates opportunities to share Jesus- Scripture: Acts 3:11–16; Acts 4:13–14

The miracle attracted attention, but Peter used the attention to point people to Jesus.

In Acts 4, the religious leaders observed the boldness of Peter and John and recognized that they had been with Jesus. v.13

Notice the connection: Their boldness was visible. Their relationship with Jesus was recognizable. The evidence of the miracle could not be denied. v.14

A. Joy gives us a reason to speak.

- We have something worth sharing.
- We have experienced God's faithfulness.
- We have evidence of His goodness in our lives.

B. Joy gives us an opportunity to point. – 1 Peter 3:15

- Our testimony should point beyond ourselves.
- We should never allow our experiences to become more important than the One who changed us.
- The objective is not to make people impressed with us but interested in Jesus.

<u>The purpose of your testimony is not to make people celebrate you; it is to make people consider Jesus</u>. **When people ask why you have joy, be prepared to tell them about Jesus.**

IV. The practical challenge: live so your joy tells a story

A compelling testimony is not simply what you say about God; it is what your life demonstrates about God.

My Challenge to you:

1. **Display your joy**. Refuse to let circumstances become the controlling influence over your attitude.
2. **Demonstrate your faith**. Let your actions agree with what you say you believe.
3. **Declare your source**. When people notice the difference, point them to Jesus.

V. Conclusion: Remember the man at the beautiful gate

- Faith moved him toward an encounter.
- His encounter produced a change.
- His change became visible.
- His visible transformation attracted attention.
- That attention created an opportunity to glorify Jesus.

THE ACTIVE FAITH DECLARATION

My faith is more than what I say. My faith is demonstrated by how I live. My obedience positions me to expect God. My expectancy gives me boldness. My boldness releases joy. And my joy becomes a testimony that points others to Jesus! I will not just talk about my faith. I will live it, demonstrate it, and let my life tell the story!

Faith that moves produces a life that testifies.

Takeaway: The strongest takeaway for this lesson is that joy is not the end of the believer's faith journey; joy is the beginning of someone else's opportunity to encounter Jesus. That brings the entire Active Faith series to a meaningful evangelistic conclusion.