

Week 12: Celebration

“Celebration is central to all the Spiritual Disciplines. Without a joyful spirit of festivity the Disciplines become dull, death-breathing tools in the hands of modern Pharisees...Celebration gives us the strength to live in all the other Disciplines. When faithfully pursued, the other Disciplines bring us deliverance from those things that have made our lives miserable for years which, in turn, evokes increased celebration. Thus an unbroken circle of life and power is formed” Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*, pg 191, 201

“God celebrates, He invented delight, joy and celebration. And one way we enter into the divine life of the Trinity is through celebration. Whether solemn or exhilarating, formal or spontaneous, celebration can enlarge our capacity to enjoy and serve God. Celebrating God does not depend on perfect circumstances or happy feelings. Even in prison Paul and Silas found something to sing about” Calhoun, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, pg 29.

Try one or more of these (taken/adapted from Foster and Calhoun):

Seeing Yourself as God Sees You

Consider how God loves you. Read Zephaniah 3:17. Then be still and listen. How is God celebrating you? Celebrate the God who celebrates you. Intentionally ask for the gift of appreciating yourself the way God does.

Recall God’s Goodness

Intentionally place yourself in the presence of God. Recall all of God’s gifts, provision, guidance and love toward you. To celebrate God’s grace to you, write a song of celebration, make a collage that represents your joy, write a poem of praise, play music and dance before the Lord, or memorize a verse of praise and repeat it through the coming days.

Celebrate Others

Attend to the people who give you joy. Ask God how you might celebrate them in a way that encourages them.

Celebrate God’s Work in You

If you have not yet been baptized and would like to publicly proclaim and celebrate God’s saving grace in you, follow [this link](#) and click on the baptism button to learn more and schedule your baptism.

Marking Time

Familiarize yourself with the church calendar and/or the feasts and festivals of God. You can learn a little bit about the liturgical calendar [here](#) or about some of the feasts and festivals by revisiting our [sermon series](#) on the topic. Consider ways you can go all out in your celebration of Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Sukkot, Passover, etc. Plan a way of celebrating God and remembering what he has done either alone or with friends.

If you'd like to learn more about spiritual transformation and various ways to invite Holy Spirit to work in and through you, these are great places to start:

[*Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality Through the Christian Year*](#) by Robert E. Webber

[*Sacred Pathways: Nine Ways to Connect with God*](#) by Gary Thomas

[*Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*](#) by Ruth Haley Barton

[*Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*](#) by Richard J. Foster

[*Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us*](#) by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun

[*Practicing the Way: Be with Jesus. Become Like Him. Do as He Did*](#) by John Mark Comer