

MAIN POINT

Only when we trust in God's ways will we experience the freedom of true joy found in Him.

INTRODUCTION

What is something you are particularly passionate or zealous about?

What might your family and friends say you are most stubborn about?

All of us want to experience true joy, and yet in our sin, we often sabotage the very joy God offers us. Having learned the hard way, David urged believers to avoid the pain and heartache of concealing sin. Instead, he encouraged us to go to God immediately. There we will always find forgiveness and guidance to walk with God in His ways. Our joy comes in trusting Him more than we trust our own abilities.

DISCUSSION

> READ PSALM 32:6-11.

Why would David say to pray at a time when God "may be found" (v. 6)?

Is there a time or situation that God can't be found? Explain.

What are some of the reasons we don't heed David's advice? What keeps us from going to God first?

What hope does verse 7 offer us in going to God immediately?

What made David qualified to teach others about confession before God?

What warning did David give to those who have received God's counsel?

How do we often respond stubbornly to God's instruction?

What is the result of trusting in the Lord? (See v. 10.)

What result does right confession produce in us? (See v. 11.)

Where do you tend to go first in your sin instead of going to God?

Where does pride get the best of you? In what areas of your life are you most inclined to rely on yourself and reject God's leading?

How does the joy that comes from right relationship with God motivate us to continually confess and repent as needed?

APPLICATION

How has trusting in yourself over God kept you from joy in the past? How will you seek to trust Him further and walk in His ways this week?