



Pointes to Ponder

*Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.
Psalms 119:11 (NASB95)*

In the normal pre-virus busy-ness of life, how much time do we spend interacting with our own families? Since we are a bit cooped up at home for at least a couple of weeks, the thought has occurred to me that this might create some interesting scenarios. The length of interactions with the one's we love most could (and probably should) rise dramatically. Which, due to sin and its effects could drastically lower the quality of those moments of togetherness. Add just a touch of the contagion of anxiousness from the evening news and the results could prove quite volatile. Sometimes, we are tempted to focus our desires on things that we think will make us happy, rather than vigorously pursue what we already know will bring certain joy. We might want a particular relational reaction so badly that we lose sight of the Truth of God's sovereignty in *everything*. Attempting to find happiness and contentment anywhere else but in God actually robs us of that vital ingredient of the life of a Christ-follower.

How then should we prepare our hearts for the inevitability of frustrations, anxieties and perhaps good old-fashioned anger. Could it be that these relational tensions are evidences that our joy has been pilfered? Which is best, God's plan or what we want? If we think of joy as being positively content in whatever God ordains then it should cover Covid-19 as well as all the tense family interactions. So, the key is finding genuine joy. Does it come easily or might we need to fight for it? We've already agreed that spending more time with folks might be opportunity for discord. We also know from life that trying to find contentment in a relationship apart from God and His truth is futile. So yes, it is necessary to fight for joy. And a fight for joy is a fight against sin. Because of sin, joy will not come to you, you must go after it. Find it and never let it go.

Now this one may be a real knock-down drag-out but instead of amping up the screen time how about together as a family we fill the vending machine of our mind chock full of joy-treasure? This will give us a standing inventory of truth from which we can grab a snack whenever necessary. Stock that puppy full by meditating on the treasure of God's Word. Memorize it. Any of it. As much of it as possible. May I recommend Fighter Verses produced by Desiring God? The [website is free](#) and the app is well worth the \$3 price tag. On both you will find a plethora of memory aids and devotional materials that will help you fight for joy as well as to plan for family worship (hint-hint). This week's Fighter Verse passage is well-known to you so it won't require hard work to memorize but you'll have to look it up for yourself. But only if you have a little extra time 😊. And who knows, perhaps with some prayer, some new disciplines will develop and become habit.