



## Sermon Notes: A Song of Joy

### 1. Remember the past.

Whatever you rehearse will become bigger to you.

### 2. Repeat the prayer.

Repetition says at least two things:

- 1) I still want this, AND
- 2) I still believe you're the source of it.

### 3. Rely on the promise.

What are some types of "sowing" in the Bible?

What are some reasons you might weep while sowing?

Christian reliance is rarely passive. It is active surrender.

Joy comes from remembering God's goodness in our yesterdays, trusting him with our todays, and working in faith toward his preferred tomorrows.



## Gospel Applications: A Song of Joy

1. What are some of the most negative things that happened to you over the past year? What are some of the most positive? Do you have an easier time remembering the good or the bad? Why do you think that is?
2. What are some of the great things the Lord has done for you, whether through good or bad circumstances?
3. How do your thoughts/emotions change as you deliberately rehearse some of the great things the Lord has done for you in the past?
4. What are you praying and asking God to restore in 2019? What steps will you take to ensure that you patiently persist in trusting God for that?
5. What are some reasons why the Bible might refer to our actions as “sowing”? What are some ways behaviors and habits are like sowing?
6. What are some things in your life that make faithful obedience hard – even painful? What kinds of resistance do you experience to sowing in joy?
7. What are some reasons why it’s important to sow in faith, regardless of how you feel? What are some potential outcomes of that discipline?
8. What “seeds” are you sowing right now? What is it about them that gives you hope to go on sowing, even through great sorrow and opposition?
9. Elsewhere in Scripture, what does God promise to those who sow the things you’re going to sow in 2019? What does he promise about the ultimate outcome of those kinds of sowing?
10. Why do you think God invites you to rely on him by actively sowing, rather than by passively waiting on him to do everything? How does this co-laboring benefit you?
11. What one thing will you do in response to this message?