

Joy-Full
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John 15:7-12

- 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
- 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.
- 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.
- 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.
- 11 **These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.**
- 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

In John 15 we read what Jesus taught the Apostle John about how to have and maintain fullness of joy.

Last week the Lord showed us how to see the joy of our salvation restored. The fact of the matter is that Jesus wants more for you than to restore your joy until you lose it again; He has made a way for you to remain joy-full!

He said, **These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you...**

and that your joy might be full.

In I John Chapter 1, the beloved Apostle in turn writes to us about that same key to possessing and maintaining fullness of joy.

1John 1:3-4

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

We understand from these passages that fellowship is the key to this fullness of joy.

So how joy-full are you this morning?

Why do we hear more about who is angry and depressed and upset and causing harm than we do about who is happy?

We are living in a world where our teenagers and even our younger children are so void of joy they are harming themselves and others.

God did not design you to be unhappy; He did not create you to be miserable and unfulfilled.

If we took a poll under anonymous conditions where you could be completely honest; what % of your average day is spent filled with joy?

I'm not talking about laughing and giddy; I'm talking about enjoying the moment, being content, enjoying your work, enjoying what you are doing, enjoying your rest; in general enjoying your life.

Is your joy cup nearly full or is it nearly empty?

Why are people, even Christians, out drinking and partying with the world? Why is drug and alcohol addiction and divorce just as prevalent among professing believers as it is with the world?

One reason is that many professing believers aren't really saved; but that aside, it is still extremely prevalent.

The reason is that their lives are so void of joy they are grasping at whatever they can to relieve the misery. They are drowning their sorrows.

The problem is that when they wake up the next day (and every single day, many don't wake up at all) they are right back in the same world they tried to escape.

Somebody says, "So and so has a drinking problem." So and so may now have a chemical dependency on alcohol they need to

work through; but the fact is that so and so does not have a drinking problem, so and so has **a joy problem!** Those who experience daily the joy of the Lord don't go looking for it in a bottle.

Jesus gave us the answer for this and I am about to lay it out for you to see.

The question is, are you tired enough of being mostly miserable to listen to what the Lord has to show you, and are you willing to believe God and do something about it?

Jesus said:

John 15:11 **These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.**

And you said, "What things are those, Pastor?"

I am so glad you asked; actually being joy-full is as simple as ABC!

I. A is for Abide.

John 15:7 **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

A. What is Jesus talking about?

1. What He is not talking about is being saved or cleansed of your sin.

2. Back in verse 3 He points out that these disciples are already clean through the Word.

3. **John 15:1-6**

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 **Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

B. What does it mean to abide?

1. menō

men'-o

A primary verb; **to stay** (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy): - abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry (for), X thine own.

2. It means to **stay put!**

3. Stay in Church, Christ's Body.
4. Stay in fellowship; with us and with the Lord.
5. Stay close, stay connected; like Jesus abides in the Father.
6. Stay open to the Holy Spirit; **and my words abide in you**, Jesus said.
7. This comes with this powerful promise; **ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

II. B is for bear.

John 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye **bear much fruit**; so shall ye be my disciples.

A. The Lord uses the illustration of a vine and its branches to show us how this works.

1. All the strength and nourishment and power to produce fruit comes from the vine; Jesus is that Vine.
2. That which actually bears the fruit is the branches.
3. We believers are those branches.
4. As we believer-branches become stronger and stronger, two types of productivity are born by us.

a. One is the consumable fruit that comes daily from us.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

(Oh, look at that second grape in the cluster).

b. The second type of productivity under the category of 'much fruit' is the producing of other new believer-branches, which in turn will bear more and more fruit.

B. We know that we were created and saved for God's glory; so just how is that accomplished?

1. **Isaiah 43:7** *Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*

2. What glorifies God? It's fruit!

3. **John 15:8** *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit;*

4. **Ephesians 3:21** *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

5. There are two things that must be continually being produced in this Church **by**

each and every one of us believer-branches:

a. That cluster of consumable fruit known as **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.**

b. And...those new believer-branches being saved, added to the Body and made capable of bearing fruit themselves.

C. What creates an environment of joy more than even those 9 Fruits of the Spirit is seeing those new believer-branches coming to know Jesus.

1. Want proof?

2. When do we see the greatest outpouring of spontaneous pure joy here in the Church more than any other time?

3. That's right; it's when we celebrate those new believer-branches coming up out of the water as they are being added to the Church by baptism.

4. This place explodes with joy every time that happens.

5. How much greater, do you think, joy, if you had a direct part in seeing them saved?

D. It is your job to see new souls saved!

1. I myself or a few others might be the one to lead them to Christ.
2. But, somebody had to plant the seed.
3. Someone else tilled the soil.
4. Someone else nourished and watered it...
5. When God gives the increase, we all get to share in the joy! This is a team effort!
6. Remember, it's just like Keith said last week; we are on God's team, not the other way around.

A is for *abide*, B is for *bear fruit* and...

III. C is for continue

John 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.
(Which is what we are going to do, Lord willing, next week).

In Conclusion:

I know we all want to experience joy. We will do almost anything for just a little taste of it; including harming our own bodies.

Problem is; fellowship with the Lord is the only thing that will cause joy to remain.

Next week we are going learn a lot more about what that really is; (hint; it's a lot more than continually confessing our sins.)

Let me ask you something personal; what do you really care about?

(Bring a new believer up front) _____ has been saved just a few weeks now.

Did you really care whether _____ went to hell or not?

Did you or didn't you? What did you do about it? Did you meet him? Did you welcome him? I can't do it all, you know.

What about these other guests; have you met them; have you made them feel welcome and loved?

When you meet someone new, what are you thinking about; their soul or getting on to where you want to go next?

Are you planting seeds of grace on purpose? Or is it just business?

There will be no life of joy until you start caring about what God cares about! And God cares about souls!