

**Joy-Full
Part II
March 2, 2014
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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 Jesus taught the Apostle John about how to have and maintain fullness of joy.

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 teaches 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 know from these passages that fellowship plays a key role in this fullness of joy.

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

Yes, God wants you happy. Yes, God wants you to remain joy-full.

But it's not just for you...You are not the only reason you should be happy; the truth is that unless there is a substantial amount of joy in our lives, we are really pretty worthless for the Lord.

Who on Earth is going to want what you've got if what you've got is making you miserable?

Most people can be miserable without any help from anybody; some believers are really good at being miserable; and we all know what misery loves...company!

The bright side is that joy can be contagious as well.

Before we get back to those 'ABC's of Joy' today in Part II, I want to remind you that this fullness of joy the Lord has for us does not depend on the circumstances you are in.

How can I have joy if my family is breaking apart? How can I have joy if I am losing my health? How can I have joy if I hurt all the time? How can I have joy when I can't pay my bills?

It's true there a lot of things that tend to rob us of our joy. Some of those things are products of our own poor choices and can be changed; some are not.

The Word of God will empower us to change those things that need changing.

As for the rest, they can only take your joy if you allow it.

Someone may be thinking, "But Pastor, you don't know what I am going through..."

The Apostle Paul was going through some pretty rough circumstances when he wrote the book of Philippians.

Philippians 4:4-13

4 Rejoice in the Lord always: *and* again I say, **Rejoice**.

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men.
The Lord *is* at hand.

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

10 But **I rejoiced in the Lord greatly**, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

“Well, that’s easy for the Apostle Paul to say.”

Was it? Considering that he was sitting in a Roman prison awaiting what would ultimately be his execution?

No, Paul wasn't having fun; but he sure had joy!

Being joy-full is as simple as ABC.

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.

Abide is "meno".

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.

It means to **stay put!**

Stay in Church, Christ's Body.

Stay in fellowship; with us and with the Lord.

Stay close, stay connected; like Jesus abides in the Father.

Stay open to the Holy Spirit; **and my words abide in you**, Jesus said.

B is for bear fruit.

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

We are meant to produce the consumable fruit that should come daily from each of us.

Galatians 5:22-23

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

We are also meant to win the lost which will produce other new believer-branches who in turn will bear more and more fruit.

C is for Continue (which is where we pick things up today).

John 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

I. Continue in Love.

A. To understand what it means to continue in the Love of the Lord, there are some things we need to understand about love.

1. Love is not just a wonderful feeling, love is what we do.

2. **John 15:10** 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.

3. **John 14:15** If ye love me, keep my commandments.
4. **1John 2:3** And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.
5. **1John 5:3** For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.
6. The 'doing' of loving God is the keeping of His commandments.

B. What are these commandments?

1. We know **they are not** the Mosaic commandments, **the law**.
2. Were he speaking of the law he certainly could not say they were not grievous.
3. The Law is indeed so grievous that no one could even come close to keeping it.
4. Concerning the Gentiles which turned to Christ, the council of the Apostles was this: **Acts 15:5** But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep **the law of Moses**.

To this the Apostles replied:

Acts 15:10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put **a yoke** upon the neck of the disciples,

which **neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?**

5. No, we are not under the law.

Romans 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for **ye are not under the law**, but under grace.

C. These commandments that we are commanded to keep consist of our New Testament marching orders given to us both personally by Jesus Himself and passed on to us by the Apostles.

1. First is get saved!

1John 3:23 And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

2. Second is to be baptized.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Acts 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...

3. Then as a part of the Body, we are to go on to maturity learning and obeying...

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them **to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you**: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

C. You can keep these commandments!

1. There is no excuse for anyone who is saved to NOT do this.

2. Keeping these commandments does not mean that you never fail or break one.

3. What if you sin? When you sin, confess it and be forgiven.

4. It means that when you falter (because you will) that you confess that sin, receive the Lord's forgiveness and KEEP the course the Lord has laid out for you.

4. What if you fall? The only thing a believer can fall from is his steadfastness. When you fall get back up and start again.

5. When you fail; learn from it and start again.

6. When Jesus He is faithful to forgive us, He means it!

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with*

such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

D. Don't even say, "Well, I love Jesus, but I don't want anything to do with those people in the Church."

1. **1John 4:20** If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

2. **1John 3:14** We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

3. **Matthew 25:40** And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done *it* unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done *it* unto me.

We are also to:

II. Continue in Learning.

A. The command to the Church is to teach you.

1. **Matthew 28:20** Teaching them **to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:** and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

2. My job as your Pastor is to oversee a program that teaches you how to live, work, grow and function as a mature Christian.

3. Your job as a member is much like mine; to learn it from the Lord and then teach it to others.

4. **Matthew 11:29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

B. Take that command the Lord gave us:
Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:

1. If we as a Church are commanded to teach you all things Jesus commanded us, then you must conclude that you are also responsible to learn them.

2. Now, I must ask; do you honestly think you can do this listening to one 30 or 40 minute sermon a week?

3. There are in this Church some of the best opportunities to gain real truth and knowledge of the Lord you can find anywhere.

4. You ought to avail yourself of every one of those opportunities you possibly can.

5. I'm sorry, but you just don't know enough to skip going through Basic Bible Truths.

6. You just don't know enough to skip Bible Class on Sundays.

7. You just don't know enough to miss all the Home Teams.

8. And you sure don't know enough that you don't need to spend time in God's Word every day!

9. We are to continue learning all we can; I guarantee that you are going to need it later.

III. Continue in Labor.

A. This is the part where we learn what real fellowship is.

1. **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.

2. koinōnia

koy-nohn-ee'-ah

From [G2844](#); *partnership*, that is, (literally) *participation*, or (social) *intercourse*, or (pecuniary) *benefaction*: - (to) communicate (-ation), communion, (contri-), distribution, fellowship.

3. Fellowship is participation together; yes it includes God participating in what we are doing...but primarily in means that we are to be participating in what God is doing!

4. **1 Corinthians 3:9** For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

5. When we give to the Church we are participating in the Lord's work; and certainly we all appreciate having what we need and knowing the bills are paid and there is money in the bank.

6. Giving is important; certainly more for you than anyone else; but Jesus said that money is that which is the least important.

7. **Luke 16:10-12**

10 He that is faithful in **that which is least** is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon [money], who will commit to your trust the true *riches*?

12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

8. This brings up a question; if money is less important, less important than what?

9. You have two other areas in which you ought to be honoring the Lord as a part of His Church; **treasure** is certainly one, but your **time** and your **talent** are even more important than the dollars.

B. God has already equipped you to do your part as a servant in His house.

1. **1Corinthians 12:14-18**

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

2. **1Corinthians 12:27** Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

3. You were made to serve the Lord; have you ever asked the Lord to show you what you were made to do here at Lighthouse?

4. There are few things that bring greater joy than doing well what you know the Lord created you to do.

In Conclusion:

Walking in fellowship with the Lord is guarding our heart and guarding our walk and confessing our sins when we fail...AS we participate in what God is doing!

If we are not bringing glory to the Lord in the Church as we are commanded; if we are not doing what it takes to bear fruit for God's glory; we are not walking in fellowship with the Lord.

Fellowship is not simply confessing our sins as we go about doing our own thing.

What is the Lord speaking to you about this morning?