“That Your Joy May Be Full”
John 15:11; 16:24; 1 John 1:4; 2 John 12

Introduction:
A. Too many live somewhere between frustration and despair, uneasy and panic - only moments of real joy.
   1. Can see it on their faces.
   2. Can hear in their voices.
B. Too many do not understand the meaning of real Biblical joy - either academically or experimentally.
   1. It is not the superficial joy of merely “having fun.”
   2. It is not the fleeting joy of a chemically induced high of alcohol and other drugs.
   3. It is not the momentary joy induced by emotional manipulation in pep-rally type religious services.
   4. It is not found by making it your purpose in life, but it comes to you as you do Lord’s will.
   5. It is a quiet, calm, serene, joy embedded deep into one’s soul.
      a. Joy, from chara, means “cheerfulness, i.e. calm delight.” (Strong)
      b. Rejoice, from chairo, means “to be ‘cheerful’, i.e. calmly happy.” (Strong)
C. To live so “that your joy may be full”, let us apply the principles spoken by Jesus and written by apostles.

Discussion:
I. Let Us Establish and Maintain the Proper Relationship with Christ. (John 15:1-11).
   A. To abide in Christ, one must be “in Christ.” (cf. Gal. 3:26,27).
   B. To abide in Christ involves:
      1. Bearing fruit. (v. 4-6).
      2. The right to pray. (v. 7).
      3. Keeping His commandments. (v. 10).

II. Let Us Accept His Exceeding Great and Precious Promises at Face Value. (cf. 2 Pet. 1:4).
   A. Accepting present promises brings great joy: Saved, redeemed, fellowship with God, etc.
   B. Anticipation of future promises brings great joy: Heaven, be with Lord, etc. (cf. Heb.12:2 Rom. 12:12).

    A. Trust Him to provide tomorrow’s needs and problems. (Matt. 6:33,34).
    B. Turn worry over to Lord in prayer and let peace of God... guard your hearts. (Phil. 4:6-7).

IV. Let Us Learn in Christ to Rise above Immediate Circumstances. (cf. Phil. 11:13).
    A. Then joy will not depend on physical, financial or environmental circumstances.
    B. Then joy will be present in midst of trouble. (cf. Matt. 5:11,12; 2 Cor 12:9,10).

V. Let Us Learn to Rid Our Minds of Mental Rubbish. (Phil. 4:8-9).
   A. No joy in grudges, hatred, etc.
   B. Great joy in noble, just, lovely things.

VI. Let Us Train Our Children to Walk in Truth. (cf. 3 John 4).
    A. A child left to himself is not likely to bring joy. (Prov. 29:15).
    B. A child properly trained is likely to be a joy. (Eph. 6:4).

VII. Let Us Reach for the Limits, but Accept the Limits of Our Capabilities and Responsibilities in Christ.
    A. Even joy is limited. (cf. John 11:35; 2 Cor. 4:8,9). - Expecting perpetual and unlimited joy leads to despair.
    B. Must accept old formula: Ability + opportunity = responsibility.
    C. Must accept that results is limited to “as much as depends on you.” (cf. Rom. 12:18).
       1. Parent can control the training and teaching, but child must receive the training. (Heb. 12:9-11).
       2. Sower can control the sowing and the seed, but not the soil. (Cf. Matt. 13:3-9).
       3. Teacher can control the planting and watering, but not the increase - God’s providence. (1 Cor. 3:6).

Conclusion:
A. Jesus and apostles have spoken and written so “that your joy may be full.”
B. Our joy cannot be full without responding to what is written - why not do so today?