

“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 quite, 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).

- III. Let Us Let Our Lord Do Our Worrying. (cf. 1 Pet. 5:7).**
 - 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?