

“That Your Joy May Be Full!”
John 15:11

Introduction:

1. I Know That The First Verse On Your Message Guide:
 - Is In The Gospel Of John:
 - But - Tonight - I Would Like For Us To Begin:
 - Back Where We Were This Morning:
 - In The Book Of 2 Corinthians!
 - So Please Turn In Your Bibles With Me:
 - To 2 Corinthians 2:3 - Where Paul Wrote - “And I wrote this same unto you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from them of whom I ought to rejoice; having confidence in you all, that my joy is the joy of you all!”
 - As I Was Preparing For The Message This Morning:
 - The Last Phrase Of Verse 3 Jumped Out At Me!
 - “My Joy Is The Joy Of You All!”
 - One Of Paul’s Desires For The Corinthian Church:
 - Was For Them All To Experience:
 - Joy!
 - True Joy!
 - Even - His Joy!
2. In Other Words:
 - What Gave Paul Joy:
 - Would Also Give Them Joy!
 - So - The Question Comes To Mind:
 - What Gives Paul Joy?
 - What Makes Him Genuinely Happy As A Christian?
 - When You Look At The Rest Of:
 - Paul’s Letters - You Discover:
 - That The Things That Brought Paul Joy:
 - Were Primarily Spiritual Things:
 - Rather Than Physical / Material / Or Even Personal Things!
 - For Example - In Philippians 2:2 - Paul Wrote:
 - “Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind!”
 - This Kind Of Christian Fellowship Is What Gave Paul Great Joy!
3. **IE:** So Often - We Have It The Other Way Around, Don’t We? We Try To Find Happiness In People & Places & Things!
 - But - Ultimately - The Things That Gave Paul Joy:
 - Were The Same Things That Brings God Joy!
 - And So - What Paul Said About His Own Joy Can Be Applied To The Lord As Well!
 - “My Joy Is The Joy Of You All!”
 - And This Is What I Want To Focus Our Attention On Tonight!
4. And So Now, Let’s Head Over To:
 - John 15:11 - “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full!”
 - Do You Realize That Jesus:
 - Wants You To Be Joyful:
 - In Your Life As A Christian?
 - With Real Joy!
 - With His Joy!
 - With Full Joy!
 - And Yet - How Many Of Us:
 - Can Honestly Say That We Are Living Our Lives:
 - With This Kind Of Joy?
 - Instead, We Often Struggle Through Life With Sadness, Discouragement, And Sometimes Even Despair!
 - And So We Wonder - “Where Is This ***Joy?***”

- Where *Is* This Joy That Jesus Was Speaking Of?
- Well - As We Apply The Words Of Paul:
 - To The Joy Of Jesus:
 - I Think We Can Find Our Answer!
 - “My Joy Is The Joy Of You All!”
 - That Is - ***That Which Brings Joy To Christ – Will Bring Joy To Christians!***

5. And In The Context Of John 15:
 - Jesus Explains To Us What Brings Him Joy!

* The First Thing We See Is That:

1. Faith In The Lord Brings Joy!

- 15:1-3 - “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. / 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. / Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you!”
 - This Is Where True Joy Must Start!
 - In A Personal Relationship With The Lord:
 - Through Faith In Him & His Word!
 - Just Look At What God’s Word:
 - Can Do For Lost Sinners Like You & Like Me!
 - 15:3 - “Now Ye Are Clean!”
 - This Is What Happens When You “Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ” And Are Saved!
 - Paul Tells Us In:
 - Ephesians 5:25-27 - That - “Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; / That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, / That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish!”
 - Doesn’t This Truth:
 - Give You Joy:
 - If You Are A Christian Today?
 - Doesn’t This Truth Make You:
 - Genuinely Happy?
 - “The Blood Of Jesus Christ” Has:
 - Cleansed You From “All Sin!” (1 John 1:7)
 - When You Trust In The Lord:
 - He Forgives You:
 - Of All Of Your Trespasses & Sins Against Him!
 - He Also Frees You:
 - From The Bondage Of Your Own Will & Sin!
 - And Doesn’t The Lord Himself:
 - Experience Joy:
 - When A Sinner Is Saved?
 - In Luke 15:7 - Jesus Himself Said - “ I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance!”
 - Remember:
 - ***That Which Brings Joy To Christ – Will Bring Joy To Christians!***
 - Faith In The Lord:
 - Will Bring You Joy!
 - Real Joy!
 - Full Joy!
 - Lasting Joy!

* Second - Back In John 15 - We See:

2. Fellowship With The Lord Brings Joy!

- 15:4-7 - “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. / 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. / 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. / If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you!”

- This Is How True Joy Can Continue:
 - In The Life Of A Christian!
 - Through Fellowship With The Lord!
 - And “Abiding” In Him!
- **IE:** Throughout His Ministry, Jesus Christ Used Natural Objects To Illustrate Spiritual Truths - He Uses The Figure Of A Grape Vine To Illustrate The Relationship Between Him & His People!
 - And Just As A “Branch” Is Connected To Its “Vine”:
 - Christians Are To “Abide” In Christ!
 - And Remain In Fellowship With Him!
 - How Do We Do That?
 - Express Your Trust In & Dependance Upon The Lord Every Single Day!
- You Can Have Fellowship With The Lord:
 - When You Receive His Word!
 - When - 15:7 - His “Words Abide In You!”
 - You Will Never Be Able To Experience The Fulness Of The Lord’s Joy:
 - Apart From The Word Of God!
 - May You Experience What Jeremiah Experienced:
 - In Jeremiah 15:16 - “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts!”
- You Can Have Fellowship With The Lord:
 - When You Request His Will!
 - Through Prayer - 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!”
- And Doesn’t The Lord Himself:
 - Experience Joy:
 - When There Is This Kind Of Fellowship
 - With His People?
 - In John 17:20-21 - Jesus Prays - “For them also which shall believe on me through their word; / That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me!”
 - Jesus Prayed That There Would Be A Special & Sweet Kind Of Fellowship:
 - With His People!
 - And This Kind Of Fellowship Undoubtedly Brings Him Joy!
 - So - When You Find Yourself Struggling With The Joy Of The Lord In Your Heart - Remember:
 - ***That Which Brings Joy To Christ – Will Bring Joy To Christians!***
 - Fellowship With The Lord:
 - Will Bring You Joy!
 - Real Joy!
 - Full Joy!
 - Lasting Joy!

* We Also See That:

3. Faithfulness To The Lord Brings Joy!

- 15:8-17 - “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. / As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. / 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. / These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. / This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. / Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. / Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. / Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. / Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. / These things I command you, that ye love one another!”

- Jesus Wants His People:
 - To Be Joyful People!
 - And One Of The Keys To This Joy:
 - Is Faithfulness & Obedience To The Word Of God!

- In 3 John 1:4 - John Wrote:
 - "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth!"
 - Is John Just Speaking For Himself?
 - Or Is He Not Also Speaking:
 - On Behalf Of The Lord Himself!
 - Even Proverbs 23:24 Tells Us That - "The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him!"
 - When The Children Of The Lord:
 - Walk In His Truth:
 - It Brings Joy To The Lord & To Our Father In Heaven!
- One Of The Reasons Why So Many Christians:
 - Have Lost The Joy Of The Lord:
 - Is Because They Have Forgotten:
 - This Simple Truth!
 - That - "There Is Happiness – In Holiness!"
 - However - The Pull Of The World:
 - To Sin Is Still So Strong - Isn't It?
 - John Describes It As "All that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life!"
 - The World May Promise:
 - Some Level Of Excitement & Pleasure!
 - But - We Must Never Forget That The "Pleasures Of Sin" Will Only Last "For A Season!" (Hebrews 11:25)
- So - Remember:
 - ***That Which Brings Joy To Christ – Will Bring Joy To Christians!***
 - Faithfulness To The Lord:
 - Will Bring You Joy!
 - Real Joy!
 - Full Joy!
 - Lasting Joy!

* Another Thing That Will Bring You Joy Is Fruitfulness!

4. ***Fruitfulness To The Lord Brings Joy!***

- All Throughout John 15:
 - Jesus Talks About Fruitfulness!
 - 15:2 - "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!"
 - 15:5 - "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!"
 - 15:16 - "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you!"
- A Fruitful Christian:
 - Brings Great Joy To The Lord!
 - 15:8 - "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples!"
 - The Lord Wants His Children To Grow!
 - The Lord Enjoys It When His Children Grow!
 - And So The Lord Has Provided All That We Need In Order To Grow!
 - 2 Peter 1:3 Tells Us That He - "Hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness!"
- So Keep Growing As A Christian!
 - Keep Bearing The Fruit:
 - That Is Cultivated Through The Work & Power Of The Holy Spirit!
 - Galatians 5:22-23 - "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, / Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law!"
 - And This Fruit & Your Growth
 - Will Bring Joy & Glory To The Lord!
- In The Old Testament Book Of Haggai:

- It Was Time For The People Of God:
 - To Rebuild The Temple In Jerusalem!
 - But - Instead - They Dwelled In Their “Cieled & Paneled Houses!”
 - But - Because The House Of God “Lied In Waste” - They Did Not Experience Any True & Lasting Joy!
- But - Listen To What The Lord Told Them:
 - Haggai 1:8 - “Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD!”
 - The Lord Continues To Delight Himself & Take Pleasure In The “Building” Up Of His House – Which Is His People!
 - So - Keep Growing! Keep Bearing His Fruit! Keep “Growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!” (2 Peter 3:18)
- And Remember:
 - ***That Which Brings Joy To Christ – Will Bring Joy To Christians!***
 - Growth & Fruitfulness In The Lord:
 - Will Bring You Joy!
 - Real Joy!
 - Full Joy!
 - Lasting Joy!

Conclusion:

1. Do You Long For This Kind Of Joy?
 - Then Think About What Brings Joy:
 - To The Lord!
 - Because His Joy Is Your Joy!
 - What Brings Him Joy:
 - Is What Will Bring You Joy!
 - And Don’t Settle:
 - For Anything Less!

***Grace Baptist Church
 Stephen Elmer, Pastor
 4245 North 200 West
 Greenfield, Indiana 46140
 317-326-2362
 www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
 www.growatgrace.org
 pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***