

Joy comes from knowing Jesus has a deep love for us. John 15:11-17

1. Joy comes from loving others as Jesus loves you
 - a. "Abide in my love" – vv9-10
 - i. Abiding in Christ, resting in His provision and sufficiency
 - ii. Obeying Him out of a trusting joy and gratitude
 - iii. He is the vine, we are the branches: dependence at all times
 - b. "Putting my happiness in your happiness" (2 Cor 2:3)
 - i. Love in the same way Jesus loves
 - ii. Love in the same way His Father loves Him
 - c. Love in the greatest way: lay down your life for the joy of another
 - i. Love: putting your happiness in the happiness of another
 1. John 15:11-13, The greatest love leads to Christ's joy
 2. The greatest love leads one to give up even his own life...joyfully
 - a. Hebrews 12:2
 - b. 2 Cor 8:2 – love leads to extreme generosity joyfully
 3. Joy is made full from realizing Jesus' choice of you and promise to you! It is seeing the Cross, the heart of the grace of God, that leads to exulting joy!
 - ii. The joy of another is their rejoicing in the truth of Jesus Christ!
 1. We do not seek the joy of each other in the idols of the heart or in the pleasures of the world or in the exaltation of the self.
 2. This is rejoicing in the TRUTH, which Jesus says is the Word of God
 - a. John 17:17
 - b. Jesus' desire for His disciples is that they be holy by the Word of God
 - c. And unified together throughout time as made holy by the Word of truth (John 17:19-23)
 - iii. We rejoice in the welfare of those whom we love
 1. 3 John 1:4 – no greater joy than hearing of beloved *walking in truth*
 - a. 1 Cor 13:6 – Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth
 - b. 2 John 1:4 - similar
 2. 1 Thess 2:19 – the salvation of the redeemed are Paul's joy
 3. Acts 15:3 – people being saved brings great joy
2. Joy comes from knowing that you are Jesus' friends
 - a. Obeying His commandment here is equated with Jesus making known the Father
 - i. We obey out of love for Christ our Savior
 - ii. Obedience, not as making us acceptable, but *because* we are accepted in Christ
 - iii. Christians rejoice to obey Jesus! In His pleasure and honor is their joy and delight
 1. "His delight is in the law of the LORD" (Ps 1:2)
 2. "I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart" (Ps 40:8)
 3. "Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, *for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.*" (Jer 15:16)
 - b. Jesus calls you friends when you put your faith in His word, His Gospel
 - i. The Scriptures are the revelation of God's character and His desires
 - ii. Our trust in His Word is the keystone on our joy stands
 - iii. Are we submitting our worldviews and understanding of truth to the perfect Word of God in ALL things?

- c. Not merely a slave or even a servant, but a friend
 - i. This is your principal position with Christ
 - ii. Don't think that this is too close...it is a position that is given, not earned, merited, or taken
 - d. Being a friend of Jesus means persecution and hardship
 - i. John 15:18-24, but not without the HS's help to endure (v26)
 - ii. Luke 6:22-23, blessed are you when men hate you because of Me
 - iii. Joy is not dependent upon comfort or ease of life
 - 1. 1 Thess 1:6
3. Joy comes from believing the Gospel: Repent and believe!
- a. Joy comes from knowing that Jesus is all that you need and that He has chosen you
 - b. We did not choose Him, but He chose us
 - i. We are secure in Him
 - 1. John 15:3, onus is on Christ
 - 2. Rom 5:1-2
 - 3. "Where peace with God is established, pleasure in God erupts" ~John Ensor
 - ii. His choice proves His faithfulness
 - 1. Rom 5:9-11; 8:32
 - 2. Col 1:11-12
 - iii. Note also that Jesus actually emphasizes the fact that we did not choose Him!
 - 1. The fullness of His joy does not come from us, but from Him, and it is only found in Him, not merely in His blessings, but in Him (abide)
 - 2. We cannot trust our own feelings or wisdom
 - 3. We trust only in the Word of God as the foundation for what is true
 - c. He appointed us
 - i. To go
 - ii. To bear fruit that lasts: holiness!
 - iii. To show us the goodness and faithfulness of the Father
 - d. Joy and peace come from believing the Gospel (Romans 15:13)
 - i. Repentance leads to joy
 - 1. In heaven: Luke 15:7-10
 - 2. In the heart of the redeemed: Acts 11:18/2 Cor 7:7-13
 - ii. Joy is made full from realizing Jesus' choice of you and promise to you! It is seeing the Cross, the heart of the grace of God, that leads to exulting joy!
 - 1. Acts 8:39, the Ethiopian official
 - 2. The experience of our joy is directly correlated to the comprehension of our complete despair in sin and the powerful and subsequent freedom that Jesus brings.
 - a. Freed slaves rejoice greatly
 - b. Idols promise freedom, but actually tyrannically enslave us and they do not forgive us when we fail.
 - c. Galatians 4:15, "What happened to all your joy?"
 - i. The addition of some performance other than Christ's stole the joy from the Galatians
 - ii. Confusing our justification with our sanctification produces joyless slaves
 - iii. Strong faith in Christ leads to joy

1. 2 Cor 1:24 – standing firm by faith leads to our joy
 2. Acts 13:52 – even in rejection of themselves and the gospel, the disciples rejoiced in the Holy Spirit continually
 - iv. This joy and peace lead to hope, security and a looking forward to the beauty to come.
 - v. 1 Peter 1:3-9
4. The Joy of This Redemption Leads to Praise
- a. Zephaniah 3:14-15
 - b. Psalm 5:11
 - c. Psalm 92:4
 - d. Psalm 43:4
 - e. Psalm 16:9-11
 - f. Psalm 98:1,4
 - g. Like the munchkins, “Let the joyous news be spread, the wicked old witch, at last, is dead!”

Conclusion:

Are you feeling depressed (joyless), or maybe passive but passionless? Do you praise the Lord to people you know? Is the work that He has done on your behalf and the wonders He’s done in your forgiveness and freedom a common theme from your heart to your mouth? Are you and I boasting in the Cross (Gal 6:14)?

If you struggle with these things: depression, anxiety, joylessness, discontentment, or any moods or workings of a joyless heart, then look again at the Cross. We find joy and peace in believing in Jesus, in believing the Gospel...it is good news of a great joy!

The cross speaks of a God of love who forgives your sins and weaknesses, your failures and your rebellions, at His own cost: the very life of His own Son. If He loves you enough to do that, does He not love you enough to give you everything else that you need? If you are in Christ, then you are a son or daughter of God! Are you important to God? Yes!! Are you worth something to Him? Yes!! Look at the Cross and see the reason for rejoicing in the hope of redemption and in the knowledge that you are loved by God, chosen by God, forgiven by God, and set free by God, and called with a purpose to build up the reputation of God through your praise of a forgiving, heart-changing God.