

“Joy From Above”

John 15:11

Sermon Series: “Joy[Full]”

Introduction: C.S. Lewis said, “Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition, when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in the slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” **I believe this infinite joy he is speaking of is found only in Jesus Christ.**

What are we talking about when we speak of joy? I think joy is kind of like love in that we know what it is but it can be hard to put into words. The Revell Compact Bible Dictionary says, “*Chairo*, the most common word, connotes an inner feeling of pleasure, satisfaction, or well-being” [some similarity to peace]. It also says that another Greek word, *agalliao*, “comes closest to the Old Testament sense of jubilation or public exultation.”

Here are some things that joy is not:

-It is not exactly the same as happiness. Lori Arwood puts it this way, “Happiness is emotion often tied to an event or circumstances, while joy is deeper and can be present despite circumstances. Joy is tied to something the Holy Spirit produces in us. Happiness isn’t a bad thing, but the source of the emotion can be.”

-It is not dependent upon circumstances (2 Corinthians 6:10)

-It is inward but shows through outwardly. Personality does affect how it is expressed or exhibited outwardly though. This is part of our witness for Jesus.

Main Idea: Joy is our possession, but is it the expression of our lives?

Jesus is telling us in this verse that His joy is the possession of everyone who has a relationship with Him. It is placed in us through the presence of His Spirit (Romans 14:17, 15:13; Galatians 5:22) when we get saved. He wants this joy to abound and us to experience and express a fullness of joy. However, the middle part of the verse makes it clear that we can lose this joy (we cannot lose our salvation but we can lose the joy of our salvation).

How do we experience and express this joy that we possess?

1. By abiding in Jesus (John 15:1-10). This is basically the same thing as being filled with and walking in the Spirit. It includes spending time with Jesus and staying in fellowship with Him (Psalm 63:1-8). It includes rejoicing in Him even when circumstances are difficult.

2. By obeying Jesus (John 15:10, Matthew 25:21, Acts 20:24, Psalm 51:12, Hebrews 12:1-11).

3. By being in relationship with and serving other believers (2 Corinthians 7:4-7, 8:1-2; Philippians 2:25-30, 4:1; Acts 15:3, 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20). Karl Barth wrote, “It must be said that we can have joy, and therefore will have it, only as we give it to others... There may be cases where a man can be really merry in isolation. But these are exceptional and dangerous.”

Conclusion: Do you have a relationship with Jesus? Receive Him so you will receive His joy. If you are a Christian, are you abiding in His joy? Are you full of His joy? We possess it, but are we expressing it? Let’s abide in Jesus, obey or repent of our disobedience, and let’s serve others so we are experiencing and expressing His joy.