

## The Joy of the Lord

### Introduction

- A. God has not only provided for and promised – forgiveness, righteousness, wisdom, strength, illumination, acceptance – He has also promised to give us joy.

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ by Whom we have now received the atonement. Romans.5:10,11.

- B. This joy is not the contentment which comes to us when we are in good health, the family is well, and the pay checks are coming in regularly.

The joy of the Lord is far more permanent and enjoyable than that!

- C. The joy of the Lord is a by-product. When we obey God on a daily basis then we can expect His joy. Joy accompanies the practice of God's will.

### I. The Joy of the Lord is Based On a Personal Relationship to Jesus Christ.

These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full. John 15:11

Observation: This verse is a part of the Farewell Discourse. Jesus Christ was teaching the disciples about their Union with Himself. A practice of this relationship will bring His joy.

### II. The Joy of the Lord is Supposed to Accompany our Prayer Life.

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My Name; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:24

Observation: Christianity has been designed to work. One of the most important facets of the Christian life is prayer. To pray correctly will result in God's grace and joy.

### III. The Joy of the Lord is so Important Jesus Christ Prayed His People Would Have His Joy.

And now come I to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have My joy fulfilled in themselves. John 17:13

Observation: Jesus Christ knew that no Christian could make a success out of the Christian life without joy. To know and do the will of God – with joy – is an unbeatable combination.

IV. The Joy of the Lord is a Characteristic of the True Christian.

For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17

Observation: Christianity starts on the inside of a person and works out. One of the indications that a person is a genuine Christian is that he will have a sense of joy in accepting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

V. The Joy of the Lord is that which finds its Source in God and His Grace.

Now the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Observation: It is encouraging to see that it is God's will and desire that He fill us with joy. Our part is "believing." In this verse the word refers to the life of faith – obeying God daily.

VI. The Joy of the Lord is Described as the Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

But the Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (self-control); against such there is no law. Galatians 5:22,23.

Observation: These virtues are all evidences of the work of the Holy Spirit. This is one way to test how well we are living the Christian life.

VIII. The Joy of the Lord Accompanies a Knowledge and Practice of the Bible.

And these things write we unto you that your joy may be full.  
I John 1:4

Observation: Every Christian, at some time or other, will have difficulty finding time to read the Bible. Once we learn to read and obey God's Word consistently – and have His joy as our daily experience – it will be much easier to schedule daily Bible reading.

Conclusion

- A. It is God's will that we have His joy – we must choose to obey Him and deliberately receive His joy.
- B. Having the Joy of the Lord will keep one from temptation, solve the problem of daily devotions, enable us to live for His glory and make us a good witness.

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