

GOD'S RECIPE FOR JOY

John 5:1-11

INTRODUCTION: We are speaking today of the fullness of joy that our Lord has promised. We will talk about how to have that fullness of joy and God's recipe for that joy that is unspeakable and full of glory. John 15:11. The joy of the Lord is the birthright of every child of God. Every child of God ought to have continuous joy. Galatians 5:22-23; Psalm 100:1-5; Nehemiah 8:10. A Christian without the joy of the Lord is a contradiction and living far below their God given rights.

I. THE SOURCE OF OUR JOY!

What did our Lord Jesus say is the source of our joy? John 15:11. Did you catch it? This is not our joy; it is the joy of Jesus! It is the joy of the Lord! We literally are called to walk in the joy of the Lord! Hebrews 1:8-9. The word "joy" literally means "to jump, to leap!" John 17:13; John 10:10. The source of our life and joy is our Lord Jesus Christ. John 15:11: This is not a joy that comes and goes; this is Jesus joy that is continual no matter the circumstances. Philippians 4:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:16: even when the tears are coming down your face you can still be filled with joy in your heart. Our Lord was facing the cross the next day when He said: John 16:33; Isaiah 61:3; John 16:20. Our joy in Jesus is steadfast even in our times of sorrow. John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 7:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7. Even in our losses of life we can have the joy of the Lord in our hearts: Hebrews 10:32-37. The closer your relationship with the Lord the greater your joy in this life will be. Psalm 16:11; 1 Peter 1:8-9. Fullness of joy is only found in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. HOW DO WE GET THIS JOY?

What is the requirement for this joy? John 15:11: It is sad but obviously not very many Christians have this kind of joy. The most miserable men on earth are not the unsaved but the saved who are out of fellowship with their Lord. We must understand what Jesus said: John 15:1; John 15:5. We must learn about the relationship of a branch to the vine. A branch is absolutely dependent upon a vine. Jesus said: "Without Me you can do nothing!" Galatians 5:22-23.

III. HOW DO WE KEEP THIS JOY?

Are you abiding in Christ? You will know and so will others as they check your fruit. James 1:5-8; Matthew 6:22-23. We must focus on abiding in Jesus Christ. As we focus on abiding in Jesus Christ we will become a better parent, worker, or business person. Philippians 3:13; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. We belong to Christ just as a branch belongs to the vine. When we begin to see our lives as being enriched by simply abiding in Christ our focus changes from trying to find our joy in the things of this world to finding our joy in Christ Himself! It is then that we are willing to make a complete surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our hearts and give ourselves totally to Christ. Romans 12:1-2. Without that joy that only Christ can give to us, no matter what else you may achieve or what fun you may have it amounts to nothing. Remember the joy of the Lord is your strength!