**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Have Fullness of Joy |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | John 15:11 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2488 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Everyone wants to have joy in their life.
   2. The reason many people do not have joy is that they are looking for it in the wrong place.
   3. Joy is not a nicety in the Christian life; it is an absolute necessity.
   4. If we are right with God, then we ought to have continual, conspicuous, and contagious joy.
      1. We should have “joy unspeakable and full of glory.”
         1. 1 Peter 1:8
   5. A Christian without joy is a contradiction in terms.
      1. It would be like speaking about a Heavenly devil.
   6. Many Christians have lost their joy.
   7. Why is joy so important?
      1. Joy is important in winning the lost to Jesus Christ.
         1. A Christian’s best advertisement is the joy of the Lord.
         2. King David loved God with all of his heart, but he lost his joy.
            1. Psalm 51:12-13

He had not lost his salvation, but he had lost his joy.

* + - 1. Someone who is not a joyful Christian is not an effective soul sinner.
    1. Joy is essential in bearing life’s burdens and to live the Christian life.
       1. We need strength to live the Christian life.
          1. “*The joy of the Lord is our strength*.”

Nehemiah 8:10

* + - * 1. The joy of the Lord Jesus will energize us and give us strength.
      1. We need joy because of the heartaches and trials of life.
         1. The joy of the Lord is how we overcome heartaches and trials.
      2. Joy is the lubricant of life.
      3. The joy of the Lord will take the weariness out of work and will remove burdens from the heart.
  1. John 15:11
     1. In this passage, Jesus Christ was speaking.
     2. As Jesus is facing dark Gethsemane and bloody Calvary, and He tells us how to have fullness of joy.
  2. In today’s message, we will think about three things as we discuss the joy of the Lord.
     1. We are not to have joy “like” His; it is His joy.
        1. “That My joy might be in you.”
           1. John 15:11

1. the joy of jesus is abounding joy
   1. John 15:11
   2. Hebrews 1:9
      1. In this verse, the word “gladness” is another word for “joy.”
         1. It is translated in Jude 24 as “exceeding joy.”
         2. It literally means “joy that leaps and dances.”
            1. That is the kind of joy that Jesus has.
            2. It is not half-hearted joy, not maybe-so joy, but joy that is abounding and supernatural.
   3. If we don’t see Jesus as the joyful Jesus, then we have not seen Jesus.
      1. Don’t think of Jesus as some pale, sanctimonious, religious recluse with ice water for blood.
      2. Jesus had a life of abounding joy.
         1. One of the ways that we know this is because little children loved Jesus.
            1. They wanted to come and crowd around Him and sit on His lap.
            2. Jesus said to let the little children come to Him.

Luke 18:16

* 1. The joy that we are talking about is not a cheap imitation of Jesus’ joy.
     1. It is His joy.
        1. John 17:13
        2. Philippians 4:4
           1. The only way we can rejoice always is to rejoice in the Lord.
           2. John 11:35, “*Jesus wept*.” is the shortest verse in the English Bible but not in the Greek language.
           3. In the Greek language, Philippians 4:4, “*Rejoice in the Lord always*,” is the shortest verse, but it speaks of the longest time.
  2. The difference between joy (that gives meaning to life) and happiness (that may only put a smile on your face):
     1. Happiness depends upon what happens.
        1. That is why we call it happiness.
        2. If that is what we are waiting for and what we depend on, then we are going to be prisoners of circumstances.
           1. There are going to come times when our “hap” is bad.

This is the time when we are going to need joy.

* + 1. Joy depends upon the Lord.
       1. Philippians 4:4
          1. The only way that we can rejoice always is to rejoice in the Lord because He never changes.
    2. Happiness is a cosmetic, but joy goes beyond the outward person to the inward character.
    3. Happiness can help us to meet surface needs, but joy will help us to meet our deepest need.
    4. Happiness is like a thermometer; it registers conditions.
    5. Joy is like a thermostat; it controls conditions.
    6. Joy is inward; happiness is outward.
    7. Happiness evaporates in times of trouble.
       1. When trouble comes, happiness goes; but joy will be intensified.
  1. It is wonderful when joy and happiness work together.
     1. We all have had those times when the happy times are here, and the joy of the Lord is in our heart.
        1. What a wonderful combination that is.
     2. But when happiness goes, we need the joy all the more.
        1. And joy can be intensified.
  2. Joy is not there to remove the pain, but to help us to bear the pain.
     1. If someone is going through pain, then that is all the more reason that they need the joy of the Lord.
  3. Joy is not the subtraction of problems from life.
     1. Joy is the addition of power to meet those problems.
  4. The joy that we have in the Lord Jesus Christ is abounding joy.
     1. “Abounding” means “fullness.”

1. the joy of jesus is abiding joy
   1. John 15:11
   2. It is not joy that comes and goes.
      1. It is joy in the good times and the bad times.
      2. It is joy on rainy days and sunny days.
      3. It is joy in times of tragedy.
         1. Joy is still there.
      4. We are to rejoice in the Lord always.
         1. Philippians 4:4
      5. Jesus was facing dark Gethsemane and bloody Calvary, and He speaks of His joy.
         1. Jesus was not a morose person, even when facing the cross.
            1. Yes, He had tears.
            2. Yes, He had pain.
            3. Yes, He had agony.

But still He had joy in His heart.

* 1. It is steadfast in sorrow.
     1. John 16:20
        1. God will turn our sorrow to joy.
  2. It is triumphant in tribulation.
     1. John 16:33
        1. Even as believers, we are not going to escape without tribulation.
     2. 2 Corinthians 7:4
        1. Joyful in tribulation.
     3. Paul and Silas were in prison at midnight, and they sang praises to the Lord.
        1. Acts 16:25
        2. We cannot sing praises to the Lord triumphantly unless we have joy in our hearts.
  3. It is lasting in losses.
     1. Have you lost something?
     2. Have things that you need or want been taken from you?
        1. This happened to the Hebrew people.
           1. Hebrews 10:34 tells us that they took joyfully the spoiling of their goods.
     3. If your goods go and you lose your joy, then you were getting your joy in the wrong place.
        1. Your joy was in your circumstances and what you had, rather than in who He is.
  4. It is abundant in affliction.
     1. 1 Thessalonians 1:6
        1. Affliction is linked with joy.

1. the joy of jesus is abundant joy
   1. John 15:11
      1. When we go back and see what Jesus spoke, there we will find a recipe for joy.
   2. Jesus speaks of Himself as a vine, and He speaks of us as the branches.
      1. John 15:1-11
      2. The branch is to abide in the vine.
         1. When the branch abides in the vine, there is joy.
   3. How to abide in Jesus:
      1. Surrender
         1. John 15:4-5
            1. The vine is the Lord Jesus.
            2. The branch is us.
         2. A branch exists for one reason: the vine.
         3. The branch makes a full surrender to the vine.
         4. We must totally and completely abide in the vine.
            1. If we don’t, then we are not going to have joy.
         5. We abide by a full surrender.
            1. Have you ever made a full surrender?
            2. Surrender everything to Jesus Christ.
      2. Dependence
         1. The joy of Jesus is given when we depend upon the Lord.
         2. John 15:5
            1. Without Him, we can do nothing.
         3. A branch can do nothing without a vine.
            1. The branch makes a full surrender.

That full surrender turns to an absolute dependence upon the Lord.

* + - 1. When we think that we are something, then God is not everything.
         1. God cannot be everything until we become nothing.
      2. God specializes in making something out of nothing when we abide in the Lord.
    1. Rest
       1. John 15:9
       2. We are to rest in His love.
       3. God loves you.
          1. That is not rhetoric; that is rock-ribbed truth.
          2. Let Him love you, and that will give you rest.
          3. We are the object of His love.
       4. All of our concerns should be reduced to one, and that is to abide in the vine.
          1. Once we do that, worry has to go.

When it is summertime and the branch needs a drink of water, it does not worry about where the water comes from.

That is the vine’s business.

The branch abides in the vine.

The vine puts His roots down into the ground and brings up moisture for the branch’s wilted leaves.

When it’s springtime and the branch needs buds, it does not worry about where the buds are going to come from.

The branch abides in the vine.

When the time of harvest comes, the branch does not worry about the grapes.

It doesn’t worry about how big, how few, or how sweet the grapes will be.

It is not the branch’s business; the branch does not produce the fruit.

Galatians 5:22

The fruit of the Spirit is joy.

We cannot create that joy.

We are to abide.

The grapes (the fruit) are His; they are not ours.

We don’t produce them; we simply bear them.

* + 1. Obedience
       1. John 15:11
          1. Jesus spoke of obedience.
       2. John 15:10
          1. Jesus spoke of His joy because He kept the commandments of the Father.
       3. John 14:15
       4. John 14:21
       5. The manifestation of God’s presence in our hearts is joy.
          1. It is joy unspeakable and full of glory as we obey the Lord.
    2. Rejoicing
       1. John 15:11
       2. We all have problems and heartaches.
          1. This is why we need joy.
       3. Luke 10:20
          1. We are to rejoice because our name is written in Heaven.
          2. Is your name written in Heaven?

All of this will do you no good unless your name is written in Heaven.

You can have your name written in Heaven and go to Heaven second-class without joy.

If your name is written in Heaven, then you can know that come what may, you are Heaven-born and Heaven-bound.

And you can rejoice that your name is written in Heaven.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. Without genuine joy, life is meaningless.
   2. Joy is only found in Jesus.
      1. John 15:11
         1. Not joy “like” His, but the supernatural joy of Jesus Christ.
   3. If you are saved and have let the devil take the joy out of your life, then repent of it and surrender to Jesus.
      1. Depend upon the Lord Jesus, and rest in Him.
      2. Obey the Lord Jesus, and let joy be renewed in your heart and in your life.
         1. This is called abiding in Jesus.
   4. If you have never received Jesus, then all of this is impossible to you until you take the first step.
      1. When you give your heart to Jesus Christ, God puts your name in His book in Heaven.
      2. The devil will whisper to you not to do it, but the devil is a liar.
         1. He didn’t suffer on a cross for you.
         2. He didn’t sweat blood in Gethsemane for you.
   5. Jesus says, “Come unto Me.”
      1. Matthew 11:28
   6. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   7. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16