

Summary: Experiencing a Life of Joy

John 15:9-12

SUMMARY: This sermon will focus our attention on embracing a life that is focused on following the commands of the Lord and understanding that following those commands does not produce an attitude of drudgery but rather an attitude of Joy.

Core Element – John 15:4a – *Remain in me, and I will remain in you.*

Four Ways to Define Joy

Definition #1 – JOY IS CREATED BY GOD

- **Romans 15:13** – May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- This main point will focus our attention on the fact that everlasting, eternal joy is produced by God. True joy is a quality produced by the hand of God not an emotion that dwindles with every valley that we travel through.

Definition #2 – JOY IS A GIFT FROM GOD

- **Galatians 5:22-23** – ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
- This main point will focus our attention on the fact that everlasting joy is not something that comes and goes with time but is meant to bring about lasting peace. It is not only created by God but it is a free gift that is given by God. It is never bought, it is never earned, and it can never be sold.

Definition #3 – JOY IS A PRODUCT OF SALVATION

- **Isaiah 61:10-11** – ¹⁰ I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.
- This main point will focus our attention on the fact that everlasting joy can only be found by starting an everlasting relationship with the everlasting Savior, Jesus Christ.

Definition #4 – JOY IS THE RESULT OF FELLOWSHIP WITH THE SAVIOR

- **John 15:10-11** – ¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.
- **John 16:24** – Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.
- This main point will focus our attention on the fact that everlasting joy is truly born out of a steady relationship with the Savior. We quickly find out that there is much joy in serving the Savior out of a humble heart.

MEMORY VERSE: Gal. 5:22-23 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.



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