

**First Church of God  
October 6, 2013  
Sermon Notes  
Pastor Robert G. White**

**"God's Joy For All Believers"  
John 15:11**

*"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."*

**INTRODUCTION**

"JOY is not the absence of problems, but the presence of God.

**I. THE SECRET TO JOY IS PERSPECTIVE.**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, "we" have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup>And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

<sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup>Since we have not been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup>For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup>Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

1. Joy comes from **understanding** truth.  
**Vs. 2 Amplified.**  
"Through Him also we have (our) access (entrance introduction) by faith into this grace —state of God's favor— in which we (firmly and safely) stand.
2. Joy comes from having a **hope** in the future.  
**Vs. 2 Amplified**  
"And let us rejoice and exalt in our hope of experiencing and enjoying the glory of God."
3. Joy comes from **seeing** the big picture.  
**Vs. 3-5**  
<sup>3</sup>Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup>And hope does not disappoint, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

4. Joy comes from being **accepted by God.**  
**Vs. 9**

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

**Justified** \_\_\_\_\_ = acquitted  
= made righteous  
= brought into a right relationship.

5. Joy comes from having **Peace** with God.  
**Vs. 11**

"Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

**"Every relationship needs joy  
...not happiness.  
—yet—**

**Many Christians seem to be without joy."**  
—Anonymous

**Part II Oct 13, 2013**

<b>Happiness</b>	<b>Joy</b>
Happiness is <b>external.</b>	Joy is <b>internal.</b>
Happiness is based on <b>Chance.</b>	Joy is based on <b>Choice.</b>
Happiness is based on <b>Circumstances.</b>	Joy is based on <b>A Relationship with Christ.</b>

## The Secret To Joy Is Perspective So...

1. Focus on **giving** rather than receiving.  
**2 Peter 1:7 (LB)**  
"Learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly... This will make possible the next step, which is for you to enjoy other people and to like them, and finally you will grow to love them deeply."
2. Focus on **inner healing** rather than hurting.  
**Col 3:13**  
"Be gentle and ready to forgive; neither hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."  
**Romans 5:3 – 4 Phillips**  
"We can be full of joy here and now, even in our trials and troubles. These very things will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character."
3. Focus on God's power rather than your **problems**.  
**Psalm 62:8**  
"Trust in God at all times; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge."  
**Phil. 4:4**  
"Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice!"

## How I Can Be Joyful In Spite Of Circumstances ?

1. Because God is **with** me.  
**Isaiah 42:2**  
"When you pass through deep waters I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you. When you pass through fire, you will not be burned; the hard trials that come will not hurt you. For I am the Lord your God."
  2. Because God has a **plan** for me.  
**Psalm 50:15**  
(God) "I want you to trust Me in your times of trouble, so I can rescue you and you can give Me glory."
  3. Because God will **help** me.  
**Psalm 43:5**  
"Why be so gloomy and discouraged? Trust in God! Then I shall praise Him for His wondrous help; He will make me smile again."
- ### II. STEPS TO LASTING JOY
1. **Praise** God for what you have.  
**I Timothy 6:6-8**  
"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content."
  2. Don't **compare** what you have with what others have.

## **Exodus 20:17**

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbors."

3. Understand that **money** does not buy happiness.

## **Ecclesiastes 5:10-11**

"He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; nor he who loves abundance, with increase, they increase who eat them; so what profit have the owners except to see them with their eyes?"

4. Build **lasting** relationships.
5. Discover peace and contentment through making a lasting **relationship** to Jesus Christ.  
**3 John 1:2**  
"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers."

## **CONCLUSION**

**Take a few moments and list the people, places, and things that bring joy to your heart.**

**They are all gifts from God that make our joy complete.**