

The Lord's Word Provides Joy  
(John 15:11)

Introduction:

1. In John 14-16 Jesus spoke to His disciples to calm their troubled hearts.
2. The Lord spoke to the disciples about special blessings, including:
  - a. comfort (John 14:18)
  - b. peace (John 14:27)
  - c. love (John 14:21)
  - d. joy (John 15:11).
3. In John 15:11 Jesus mentioned the things that He had spoken to the disciples.
4. The Lord's words would have a tremendous impact upon the disciples.
  - a. His joy would remain in them.
  - b. Their joy might be full.
5. The disciples would need this assurance in the days ahead (John 16:20, 22).
6. Today we are emphasizing the fact that "the Lord's Word provides joy."

Discussion:

- I. THE LORD'S WORD TEACHES US TO BE FILLED WITH JOY
  - A. Consider the instructions given in:
    1. Galatians 5:22-23 -- Joy is one of the nine characteristics that collectively make up *"the fruit of the Spirit."*
    2. Philippians 3:1 -- *"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord."*
    3. Philippians 4:4 -- *"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."*
    4. 1 Thessalonians 5:16 -- *"Rejoice evermore."*
  - B. Not only does the Lord's Word teach us to be filled with joy, but it also teaches when we are to be filled with joy -- *"always"* and *"evermore."*
    1. To be more specific, the Bible teaches us to be filled with joy when we undergo trials (James 1:1-2; Matthew 5:10-12).
    2. Thankfully, we have some positive examples in this area, including:
      - a. the apostles (Acts 5:40-41)
      - b. Paul and Silas (Acts 16:25)
      - c. Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2).
  - C. Before we go further, we must understand what the Lord requires of us.
    1. We often think of joy as a feeling of happiness that is based on some pleasant experience.
    2. The joy we are considering is the gladness of heart that a Christian possesses because he has a right relationship with the Lord.
      - a. This type of joy is not based on how well things are going for us.
      - b. This type of joy can be experienced when things are not going well for us.
  - D. In addition to teaching us to be filled with joy, . . .
- II. THE LORD'S WORD TEACHES US HOW TO AVOID LOSING OUR JOY
  - A. We must put away *"the works of the flesh"* (Galatians 5:19-21) because they will rob us of joy (Psalm 32:1-5).
  - B. We must practice the Lord's teachings (John 15:10-11).
  - C. We must avoid anxiety (Philippians 4:6-7).
  - D. We must think properly (Philippians 4:8-9).

Conclusion:

1. "Joy" is certainly an important part of Christianity.
2. We have reason to rejoice when we become Christians.
  - a. The eunuch rejoiced after he was baptized (Acts 8:35-39).
  - b. We learn why he rejoiced in 2 Corinthians 5:17.
3. We are to continue rejoicing after we become Christians.
4. By following the guidelines that the Lord has given in His Word we will not lose our joy.