

John 15:11, “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.”



What are ‘these things’ that can fill people with lasting and filling joy?

Verse 7, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”

Have you ever asked for something and the answer doesn’t seem to come? According to this verse, it would be fair to ask, have you been memorizing Scripture and applying it to your heart?

Verse 8, “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

Leading someone to Christ and helping them grow closer to the Lord is a great joy for every Christian. But more importantly, it is a great joy to our precious Savior. I like to find ways to make God smile and this is definitely one of those smile producing joys!

Verse 9, “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.”

As a young child, my ‘love world’ revolved around my mom and dad. I enjoyed making them happy and experiencing the warmth of their love every day. It gave me such pleasure, comfort and security. But fear and disappointment would rob me of that joy when I disobeyed them. As soon as I saw their look of disappointment, I would cry. As I grew, I eventually learned that their love for me did not change even through those tough times. But yet, I enjoyed their love more when all was good between us.

We enjoy the fullness of God’s love and feel the pure pleasure of it when all is good between us.

Verse 10, “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love.”

Jesus is our great example to follow: keep His commandments. Follow the rules! Obedience brings joy!



Who doesn't want to experience the love and joy that only God gives when we face trials and dark circumstances of life? I want it! I also want that joy to be full, not just partial! Like the kid who had his first bite of sweet chocolate, I don't want just a bite; I want the whole candy bar.

Verse 11, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

In review, to have God's joy and to have it in full:

- Have a daily relationship with God – daily devotions and daily prayer; Memorize Scripture so it abides IN you – THEN you receive the JOY of answered prayer!
- Bear fruit by sharing the Gospel to others and teaching young Christians to grow and bear fruit themselves.
- Continue in His love – don't run away from Him or get mad when things don't go the way you planned – stay faithful in church and in your daily walk with the Lord.
- Keep His commandments – you may not like them nor agree with them, but still keep them – most likely after you grow as a Christian you will learn to not only agree with God's rules, you will fall in love with them and be thankful for them. You will see all the snares you DID NOT have to experience because you listened and AVOIDED them!



What type of Christian are you: an enthusiastic Tigger or a sulky Eeyore?
You can be enthusiastic and FULL of Joy if you abide in these things!