

Joy - Bishop Jesse Rice

John 15:1-11

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 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. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

1. Jesus states in John that you can do nothing apart from me. We are looking to others to get joy and peace.
2. Jesus says "remain in my love". It's not how much we love him, but it's based on how much He loves us. Everything we need is in Jesus.
3. One of the problems we encounter, is that we try to live God as much as He loves us. However, we can't love Him without recognizing that He first loved us.

4. The Greek root of pleasure is the same as hedonism. The Bible says that there will be lovers of pleasure.
5. Based on John 15, remaining in Him is where we find joy. We cannot experience joy apart from Him.
6. My joy is predicated on my relationship with the Lord.
7. You cannot lose your joy. You must appropriate and use what God has already given and made available to you. Like Grace, Joy was given to you at the time of salvation. And the gift was made available by what Jesus did on the cross.
8. Joy is permanent. Pleasure is temporary.
9. Joy is in relationship. Pleasure is in things.
10. Joy cannot be bought. It is a fruit of the spirit.
11. You can have joy in the midst of all kinds of hell, because of our relationship with God. Thanks be unto God who always caused me to triumph. I can still have joy in spite of what's going on!
12. Your relationship will determine your joy. Joy is the happy state that results from knowing and serving God.
13. Psalms 16:11 - You will show me the path of life; in thy presence is fulness of joy. I'll never leave you or forsake you. If you are sensitive to His presence, you will experience the fullness of joy.
14. He's right there with us. We need to practice His presence. Deut. 31:8
15. Neh 8:10 - The joy of the Lord is our strength.
16. No matter what is going on, based on the Word, we know that all things work together for the good of those that love Him.
17. Count it all joy....James 1:2 - My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

18. Without faith it is impossible to please God.
Abraham was called the Father of many nations by God even before he had children.
19. John 16:24. Ask in His name and you shall receive that your joy be full.
20. Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS!! Philippians 4:4-11.