

# Why Don't I Have Joy?

Sunday, January 22, 2022

John 15:11

## Definition of Joy

- cheerfulness, i.e. calm delight: — gladness
- a feeling of great pleasure and happiness.
- Biblical definition - a perpetual gladness of the heart that comes from knowing, experiencing, and trusting Jesus.

**“Happiness is because of. Joy is in spite of.”**

*I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him.*

*Romans 15:13*

*I have told you these things **so that** you will be filled with my **joy**. Yes, your **joy** will overflow!*

*John 15:11 NLT*

*"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. 3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. 5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. 7 But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! 8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. 9 "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. **11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!***

*John 15:1-11 NLT*

## 1. We are not abiding or remaining in Him.

*Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit..  
John 15:5*

*So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Do these things, and you will never fall away. 11 Then God will give you a grand entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

*2 Peter 1:10-11*

## 2. We are not believing Him

***Therefore**, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, **especially the sin that so easily trips us up**. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.*

*Hebrews 12:1-3 NLT*

*But if you remain in me and **my words remain in you**, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!*

*Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?*

*Matthew 6:26-27*

*"What is the price of five sparrows--two copper coins? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. 7 And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows*

*Luke 12:6-7*

*...I have chosen you and will not throw you away. 10 Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. 11 "See, all your angry enemies lie there, confused and humiliated. Anyone who*

*opposes you will die and come to nothing. 12 You will look in vain for those who tried to conquer you. Those who attack you will come to nothing. 13 For I hold you by your right hand--I, the LORD your God. And I say to you, 'Don't be afraid. I am here to help you.*

*Isaiah 41:9b-13 NLT*

*"I, yes I, am the one who comforts you. So why are you afraid of mere humans, who wither like the grass and disappear? 13 Yet you have forgotten the LORD, your Creator, the one who stretched out the sky like a canopy and laid the foundations of the earth. Will you remain in constant dread of human oppressors? Will you continue to fear the anger of your enemies? Where is their fury and anger now? It is gone! 14 Soon all you captives will be released! Imprisonment, starvation, and death will not be your fate! 15 For I am the LORD your God, who stirs up the sea, causing its waves to roar. My name is the LORD of Heaven's Armies.*

*Isaiah 51:12-15 NLT*

### **3. We are not Obeying His Commands -**

*"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. 11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!*

*John 15:9-11 NLT*

#### **This is my commandment:**

*Love each other in the same way I have loved you. 13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

*John 15:11-13*

*'We have fasted before you!' they say. 'Why aren't you impressed? We have been very hard on ourselves, and you don't even notice it!*

*Isaiah 58:3*

*"I will tell you why!" "It's because you are fasting **to please yourselves.** Even while you fast, you keep oppressing your workers. 4 What good is fasting when you keep on fighting and quarreling? This kind of fasting will*

*never get you anywhere with me. 5 You humble yourselves by going through the motions of penance, bowing your heads like reeds bending in the wind. You dress in burlap and cover yourselves with ashes. Is this what you call fasting? Do you really think this will please the LORD?*

*Isaiah 58:4-5*

*"No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. 7 Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.*

**"Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal.** *Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the LORD will protect you from behind. 9 Then when you call, the LORD will answer. 'Yes, I am here,' he will quickly reply. "Remove the heavy yoke of oppression. Stop pointing your finger and spreading vicious rumors! 10 Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble.*

**Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.** *11 The LORD will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring.*

*Isaiah 58:5-11*

*Always be joyful.  
1 Thessalonians 5:16*