

Joy To the World The Promise of Joy, Part 1

John 15:11: *“I have told you these things so that you will be filled with **My joy**. Yes, **your joy** will overflow!”*

It's Christmas Time: the time of year we celebrate the Birth of Our Savior. It's a time of giving and receiving, singing and sledding, skiing and skating, decorating and dancing.

It's the Holy Day: A Happy Holyday, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

If Jesus said that we would be filled with His joy, why do so many seem to be lacking it?

In order to fully understand Jesus' statement in John 15:11, you must first understand the Premise of the Passage. As you will soon see, this premise is actually part of a promise.

The Premise is Key to unlocking a Promise

And just to be clear, this passage doesn't really require a lot of digging to understand the spiritual principal being communicated. But it needs to be **unpacked** to fully grasp the magnitude of this glorious promise. **Gifts Need to be Unwrapped!**

The Premise

John 12: *Jesus arrives in Jerusalem riding a donkey.*

PALM BRANCHES—HOSANNA!!!

Hey, I'm here, but my end is near!!

The Son of man must be lifted up and draw all men unto Me

John 13: *Lord's Supper—Communion: Jesus washes the disciples' feet (servanthood)*

Jesus predicts the betrayal—He sees and knows all

New Commandment: Love One Another

*Jesus ---> Peter: “I will lay my life down for you!” **Will you lay your life down for Me?***

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John 14: *“Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God and believe in Me. I am going and will prepare a place for you.”* The disciples asked, “ Where are you going? How do we get there? We don't know the way!”

John 14:6: *“I am The Way, The Truth and The Life.”*

John 14:14: *“Ask anything in My name, I will do it!”*

John 14:15: *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”*

Important Key Verse: John 14:16-17: *“I will ask the Father and He will give you another Advocate who will never leave you. **He is the Holy Spirit who leads into all truth.** The world cannot receive Him because it isn't looking for Him and doesn't recognize Him. But you know Him, **because He lives with you now and later will be in you.**”*

John 14:29: *“I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.”* This verse runs congruent with John 15:11.

John 15: The Vine and the Branches: *“Abide in Me and I in you and you will bear much Fruit,”* fruit that remains.

If you Consider the Premise, you can Capture the Promise!

The Promise

John 15:11: *“I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!”*

Joy = Chara: gladness, cheerfulness, a great delight

The Joy that Jesus spoke of is the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. Same Greek word we find in

Galatians 5:22: *“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”*

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Psalm 16:11 (NASB): *“You will make known to me the Path of Life, in Your Presence is fullness of joy, in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.”*

Speaks of Fullness—Different Measures. It doesn't say “In Your Presence is Joy,” it says “In Your Presence is Fullness of Joy.” THAT'S why it's important we spend time with the Lord.

The Longer we stay in His Presence means the stronger His Presence becomes in us!

There are various platforms (levels) of the Spirit and there are various platforms of Joy.

The stronger the Spirit, the stronger the Joy

Psalm 9:2: *“I will be filled with **joy** because of you. I will sing praises to Your Name, O Most High.”*

Matthew 3:17: *“And a voice from heaven said, 'This is My dearly loved Son, who brings me **great joy.**'”*

Psalm 34:5: *“Those who look to Him for help will be **radiant with joy**, no shadow of shame will darken their faces.”*

Psalm 22:26: *“The poor will eat and be satisfied. All who seek the Lord will praise Him. Their hearts will rejoice with **everlasting joy.**”*

1 Peter 1:8: *“You love Him even though you have never seen Him. Though you do not see Him now, you trust Him, and you rejoice with a glorious, **inexpressible joy.**”*

The Problem

Forgetting the Premise Forfeits the Promise

The main reason people lack Joy is they are lacking “The Fullness of the Holy Spirit!”

It's not that they don't have the Spirit, it's just the Spirit doesn't have them. We are to Keep in Step with the Holy Spirit, not the other way around. Many want the Holy Spirit to follow them—IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY!

“Lack” is an Impure Mixture: Weak concentration, some Spirit/some flesh.

Your overflow is determined by your intake: Whatever you're feasting on, you'll eventually be full of.

Out of the Abundance of the Heart, the Mouth Speaks!

Explosive outbursts are a result of volatile input!

“Taste and See that the Lord is Good!” King David realized this in Psalm 51 after his fall with Bathsheba.

Psalm 51:10-12: *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and **renew** a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your Presence. And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. **Restore** to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit.”*

Repentance Restores Our Relationship with God

The Prescription

GUARD YOUR HEART: Proverbs 4:23 (NIV): *“Above all else, **guard your heart**, for everything you do flows from it.”*

OWN YOUR OUTPUT: Proverbs 28:13: *“People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.”*

CHANGE YOUR CONCENTRATION: Ephesians 5:18-19: *“Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.”*