

How You Can DOUBLE Your Joy

Sermon Title: **How You Can DOUBLE Your Joy**

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Welcome to Brothers Of The Word because brother you need the word!

Today I'm going to interrupt our normally scheduled program for a special announcement. I have been doing a series for the past few weeks, but today I'm interrupting that series to bring you something special. Turn to the person next to you and say: He's got something special for us today. And today's message is simply called: How You Can Double Your Joy. How many of you need some more joy in your life? I mean you can use just a little bit more joy in your life? Well I come to you today to give you knowledge and information on how you can double your joy.

There are fundamentally 12 spiritual disciplines. In the classic theology there are considered 12 spiritual disciplines; there are four corporate disciplines and then there are eight inter or personal disciplines. The four corporate disciplines: the discipline of confession, worship, guidance, and celebration. And the eight personal or inter-disciplines: meditation, prayer, fasting, studying, simplicity, solitude, submission and service. And recently I was in the midst of discipline, the personal discipline of number six, and it is from a program called No Talk. And every year I would go away for a certain period of time and follow the guidelines of solitude and silence with No Talk.

It's almost harder than fasting. And some people don't understand the difficulty of just being quiet. But oftentimes when you are quiet you can hear better from God. And basically because we are so geared to talking so much, we are talking on the phone, we are talking, we are texting, we are just looking at TV, we are listening to music. We are surrounded by so much information, so much stuff coming in that it is difficult for us to be still and know that God is God. In contemporary society our adversary majors in three things: noise, hurry and crowds. And if he can keep us engaged in the muchness and the manyness, he'll rest satisfied. The psychiatrist Carl Jung once remarked, he said that hurry is not of the devil, it is the devil.

And just to be able to get apart, to be quiet and to shut up. Do you know it is hard to do that? I want you to just turn to the person next to you and just tell them you need to shut up. Now I know some of you, don't have a mean feel, you have to have a smile on that, because some of you been saying I have been wanting to tell them that for the longest. But just tell them you need to shut up! Sometimes we just need to be quiet and be still so that we can hear the voice of God. And as I had been on No Talk and I had been shut away. This is my fourth year doing this, the first year I went for seven days with no talking, no television, no phone, no computer, no electronics of any form whatsoever; just in a cabin out in the woods by myself.

The first hour it felt like I was going to die. You would think this thing is easy, but it is really not. The first hour I literally felt like I was going to die because I couldn't talk, and I couldn't get any stimulation. It was just...the things that began to happen to you when you get yourself apart. I had nightmares for three...just stuff

starts to come out; you would be surprised what happens. You would be surprised at what is in you. I had nightmares the first three nights. The first time I did it I spent seven days with No Talk. And people those of you who want to get away and get quiet, all of the guidelines of the program are at NoTalk.com

Sometimes you just need to get away. The second year I did seven days and it wasn't nearly as bad, because I had gotten a whole lot of the mess out. The third year, I was preparing to do seven days and God spoke after three days and he said that is enough, you are finished you have gotten what you needed. This year was my fourth year and I was preparing to do three days, and at the end of one and a half days, he said you have gotten all you need to get out of this silence. But I still went another day, because once you get used to it it isn't as hard. There is a process of learning and growing that you go through. But after I had been there and after the first day, I was sitting there...couldn't talk...quiet. And God began to bring something to my spirit. And he brought back a vision of a basketball game.

And this was a basketball game that had happened about three years ago. I was at a game with my second son, Josees, and he was playing in the game. We were in a upstairs gymnasium at a YMCA. All of the players were on the other side of the court. One team on one end and the other team on the other end, that's where they had their benches and the coaches there. All of the parents were on the same side for both teams. And as they were playing, one of the boys on the other team scored a basket. And when he scored a basket, the lady sitting beside me jumped up and began to shout because that was her son. And she was just shouting that her son had made a basket. But you see that basket meant that that score went to the other team that Josees was not playing for. But as I saw the lady, and listened to her enthusiasm, God begin to minister to me. And what he began to minister to me was this: he said that lady loves her son just as much as you love your son. She is just as excited and just as full of joy about her son making a basket as you are when your son makes a basket.

And God began to bring back just the memory of that game, and the memory of that lady as she rejoiced over her son. And then God spoke a major revelation to me. Sometimes people you don't need but one revelation to change your life. One revelation can change your life. Oftentimes people it doesn't take but one thing to straighten you out, and sometimes it doesn't take but one thing to mess you up. It doesn't take a whole lot of things; one thing can change your entire life. And this one thing that God spoke to me, I speak it in terms of a Brother Point. He said this, he said: what if we cheered for others? It would not only increase their joy, it would double ours.

What if we cheered for others? It would not only increase their joy, it would double ours. We are used to cheering for our team. Let me just give you an example. Just take football. The football team here in Atlanta is called the Atlanta Falcons. I'll use

a different team, let's say the San Francisco 49ers. I'm not an expert on football, I really don't even watch the Super Bowl, so that will tell you how much I know about football. But we are going to San Francisco next month, so let me use the San Francisco 49ers. And let's just say all of you here are Falcons fans, and you are at the game and the Falcons are playing the 49ers. Now, I don't even know whether they are in the same league, and whether they play together or not. So don't say that Pastor doesn't even know that they don't play together...no I don't!

But just walk with me for a minute if you will, and let's say the Falcons are playing the 49ers and you are a Falcons fan. Or whatever fan you are. You're a Greenbay fan, or whatever fan you are. Your team is playing some other team. And your team scores a touchdown, and when your team scores a touchdown you jump up and you shout. You are so full of joy and you are so happy because your team has scored a touchdown. But just suppose. You all say: just suppose. But just suppose when the 49ers score a touchdown. Just suppose. Even though they are not your team, just suppose that you are different from the crowd, because you know the crowd is either one team or the other team. But do you understand that Heaven is never for the crowd, never has been. Life and everlasting life has never been for the crowd.

Jesus says wide is the path leadeth to destruction. And you can substitute that word destruction for depression, for discord, for unhappiness, for mess. You can substitute that word destruction for all of the other mess. Wide is the path that leadeth to not having joy, but narrow is the path that leadeth unto joy and life, and all of this that fills you up and lights you up. Narrow is the path and few there be that even find it. So understand this, with a stadium full of folk it is not going to be many who will have this revelation. So when the 49ers score in the Atlanta stadium, and it's not your team. But just suppose when they scored you stood up and said hallelujah, thank God you've got that touchdown! I mean suppose you cheered, suppose you had joy when both teams scored. You all say just suppose. Now see, you have to stretch your mind and understand this is not like the crowd. But the crowd never has all of the best stuff, never has and never will.

All throughout history the crowd has never had the best stuff. So if you want the best stuff you have to think differently from the crowd; you have to act differently from the crowd. Just suppose you cheered for both teams. Instantly two things would happen: number one, your joy would double because now no matter which end the ball goes in, no matter what happens, your joy would instantly double. The second thing that would happen is this: your depression would disappear because now if your team fumbles, yeah the other team has the ball! Suppose...can you imagine? Now see you have to stretch your mentality to understand this. But that is why the true treasures only the enlightened could understand. The masters couldn't even grasp it. They could not understand the true wisdom. Just suppose you cheered for both teams. What if we cheered for others?

Now see the challenge in this is when we ask ourselves: Lord you want me to cheer for someone else's child? You want me to be just as happy for their child as I am for my own? That's goes against everything in the flesh. Goes against every cell in the body. For you to be as happy for another person's child as you are for yours, because there is a biological, a DNA link that is in your flesh that connects you to yours and your own. It's different when you have to have the same feel for somebody else's. And that is not an easy thing to do or accomplish. You say Pastor well that doesn't even sound biblical, that doesn't even sound biblical. You want me to love somebody else's child as much as I love mine. That doesn't even sound right! Because it goes against your flesh.

But you know there was a man who said, who indicated, who expounded upon, who breathed and he said love thy neighbor as thyself. That is not easy, that is not the crowd. That is an elevated position that is hard for the flesh to even comprehend. And then as God begin to explain: it will double your joy! If you would celebrate, if you would cheer for your neighbor as much as yourself, it doubles your joy. Everything God told you to do it wasn't for the neighbor, it was for you! So if you love your neighbor as yourself, every time your neighbor received a promotion, whew Lord have mercy! oh my goodness! Their salary just doubled! Hallelujah! But what happens in the flesh? What happens in the flesh when your neighbor gets a promotion? I been here just as long as they have; I need that money worse than they do.

The thing of the flesh is not joy for your neighbor; the thing of the flesh is jealousy of your neighbor. What if we cheered for others when they did well? So much people if we could grasp this, God says it will double your joy. Now people double is simply a multiplication times two. The other revelation I got is this: If you don't have any joy, there isn't anything to double. That's why it says love your neighbor as yourself. If you don't love you, you can't even love your neighbor because you don't love you. So if you have no joy, and we think that this is something that Jesus first said, no Jesus didn't say it first either. Moses first said it. Yeah, Moses first said that. Moses first said that back in Leviticus 19:18, thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people. That refers back to the sermon I preached last week, part four of The Nine Parts Of Covenant.

But thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, I am the Lord. God told Moses that back in the Old Testament, love thy neighbor as thyself. But people we have so many problems. And when I got back and we had a family program where all of the children got up and said scripture and bible verses, and that thing hit me because I had to sit there and listen to my child cite scripture, and then remembering what God had said: if we cheered for others it would double our joy. I had to listen to my child cite scripture, and then gear my mind and spirit to be just as happy for my brothers' children. I'm not even talking about my neighbors; I'm talking about just my blood brothers. See, we can't get to the neighbor until we even first get to the

kinfolk in our own house! You can't get to the person next door until you get to the person indoors!

So I had to re-gear myself to be just as happy for my brothers' children. To cheer as much for my brothers' children as I did for my own. And people when we understand just the principle and if you can imagine the Falcons and the 49ers, and what it will take to gear your mind and spirit to cheering for both teams. But that's the same principle of you cheering for your neighbor and you cheering for your co-worker. See it doesn't even matter people, it doesn't matter what you have. This is another Brother Point, what C.S. Lewis said. He said: pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next person. That's the real root of pride. You can even look in sports and see that.

You can have a multi-million dollar player, the man has five houses and ten cars. Making millions of dollars per year, has a thousand suits of clothes. He can be making millions. But then he hears about someone else playing the same position he is playing, that is making ten million more. All of a sudden his five houses, his ten cars, his thousand suits, all of a sudden now because someone else in the same position is making more money than he is; he becomes disgruntled, dissatisfied and all of his joy is now gone because someone else in the same position is making more than he is. I can tell him how to double his joy. I can tell him how to double his joy! But it goes against the flesh, it goes against the natural man, and it goes against the natural spirit; because the natural is based in pride and in vanity, and we only get natural satisfaction when we have more than someone else.

There is a story, talking about just sports, Lou Gehrig who had ALS; it is called Lou Gehrig's disease. He died in 1941, he was 37 years old. And Lou Gehrig had a best friend named Bob, and one day Lou called up Bob and this was a few months before he died. He called up Bob and he said Bob, the folk in the lab have now come up with a serum and it works on nine out of ten people with my disease. It works on nine out of ten! They have come up with this fantastic serum! It is helping nine out of ten. And then Bob said well Lou, is it working on you? And Lou said no, but it is working on nine out of ten. Oh what a miracle! It is working on nine out of ten, doesn't work on me, but it is working on nine out of ten! If we could just have joy for our friends and neighbors, it would double our joy.

Even in ministry sometimes, there is a problem because people, ministers can't get joy because someone else has a bigger ministry than they do. And they can't get joy because of the other person has the bigger ministry, and theirs is not as big as their ministry so it creates a problem. F.B. Myer, he was a preacher in London, England and at the time Charles Spurgeon and G. Campbell Morgan, they were two big mega pastors there. So Spurgeon and Morgan had these big churches. And one day, Myer went to God and said Lord I'm going to be honest; I'm jealous of Spurgeon and Morgan. I'm just jealous. They have these big old ministries, these big old churches,

they are ten times the size of my church Lord. I'm just going to be honest. Lord, help me with my envy, help me with my jealousy.

And the Lord said: I want you to pray for Spurgeon and Morgan; I want you to pray for their ministries to just grow and to get even bigger and even bigger. And Myer said: what??? Lord I asked you to help me with my jealousy! I asked you to help me! He said I want you to pray for their ministries to get bigger and bigger and bigger. But one thing Myer knew, he knew the danger of going against the word of God. And he knew that even though he didn't understand it...he trusted God. So he began in earnest to pray for the other two ministries. And as he prayed, they got bigger and bigger and bigger. And finally they got so big, their buildings wouldn't hold the folk and they overflowed into his ministry. Sometimes people you don't understand. If we could just learn to cheer for and to root on our neighbors, our friends, our families. Just those who are in our circles. Because you can't do it outside until you learn how to do it close first.

You know sometimes even in marriages. Even marriages sometimes have problems because they are competing. They don't even want the other one to succeed; they are competing against each other. Even in the bed it is a problem. If you could just root and cheer for others, it would double your joy. If you could do like God told Moses. And like Jesus told you. If you could just love thy neighbor as thyself. It will double your joy.

Those of you who are watching or listening electronically, you probably need to listen to this again because this is not an easy thing to do. But once you began to follow as God has told you in the old and in the new. I have simply given you some reasons and rationale behind the instruction. But as you begin to love others, as you begin to cheer, as you begin to change your heart, you are going to see the overflow in their world come into yours. And it is going to change your joy and change your heart.

People that is a difficult thing to do. I'm not going to sit here and tell you it's easy. But all of the stuff of higher elevation is difficult. That is why it is higher elevation. That is why it is on the mountain top. It is not easy getting up to the top of the mountain. Anything you want out of life that is beyond the crowd always has a degree of difficulty, if it didn't the crowd would be there. There is a reason. So it is not easy but oh the benefits that it will have. Because some of us, we just have too many problems because we are just too jealous of folk. So if you start cheering it eliminates the jealousy, it will change your mind, mentality, and focus.

Change your heart and it will change what you get. I'm going to ask today. You know I always really try not to do anything out of my own spirit, even when we close out every Sunday, I'll ask the Lord who should close out. And today, I'm just hearing Dr. Curry. Now Dr. Curry, I know he is saying what??? But he is prepared,

I'm not even worried about that. He is the husband to Simone's, my wife, first lady you all know as Pudding, he is the husband to her mother's sister. So he is a medical doctor. And he came here today, and all of the young people were waiting on him, because they had heard that he plays some serious basketball. Now he is in his 60's. And they played yesterday, and I was there for the first game and those young folk's tongues were just dragging the ground. And he was still going strong.

I have gone to visit him several times, and the last time I was there I went to church with him. And he left the house going to church about seven o'clock in the morning. So he was at church early, you all say early in the morning. So he was there early, and he was there on time. They were here this morning early and on time. So he was there early and he goes there to teach. So he is a medical doctor, but he has his body in shape, he has his family in shape, he has his money in shape, and he has his spirit in shape. I was talking with the teacher, Glen, outside and he was telling me some books that he wanted to get. And I was telling Glen that was great and we are going to get him whatever he wants.

I said but Glen you are a very deep theologian. But to be honest about it, I am not impressed with theologians, because I know some people that can talk and argue all day long about scripture right and left. Show me their life. And when you look at their life, they will be like Scribes and Pharisees. When you look at the life, the life doesn't hold up to the rhetoric. So I said Glen, one thing about you, your life holds up. So if the life, now no one is perfect, we understand that...we are in the flesh. No one is perfect. But some folks are better than others. That is just the bottom line. No one is perfect, but some folks are way better than other folks, that is just all there is to that.

So it is a privilege and a pleasure, I just want him to come and close us out. We normally will have our call to salvation and our offer for membership. Dr. Curry whatever you feel led to do. I always tell people, look if we don't open the doors of the church today, and you don't join because you didn't join today, you really weren't meant to be here anyway. So I'm not worried about that. So whatever you feel led to do, I just want you to come. And he is casual, and that's alright don't even worry about that. Don't worry about how he is dressed on the outside. I always tell people I'm not concerned about how I look with all these fancy clothes on, I'm more concerned about how I look naked. I am. And my wife was telling me...he was there at the house. He is staying at our house and he had just come in from playing ping pong, and he had taken his shirt off, and my wife said you know he has a six pack!

He is in his 60's and he has a six pack. So he might not be dressed as fancy as I am, people, he is not dressed as fancy as some of you; but he has a six pack. So Dr. Curry, I just want you to come and however you feel led. If you would, I just want you to close us out for today.

[Dr. Curry] Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord again. The Lord says be ye always prepared, so you know I don't know whether I am prepared, but I'm going to do my best. I just thank God for being here today. I thank God for life, health, and strength. I thank God for all things of course. I thank God for the joy that I have in him, because I know that if it wasn't for him I wouldn't be who I am. So I don't take that lightly. I put God first in all that I say and do. I thank God, I want to pause right here, I thank God for my wife because she has really been an inspiration in my life.

[Pastor Nathaniel] Now Deen, would you come up and stand beside him? See, Dr. Curry is in good shape, I want you to see his wife. That stuff rubs off, anointing flows down. Come up, they need to see what you look like, don't worry about that! Come on! That anointing flows down! Now she is almost as old as he is. I think you look about 20 years younger than he is, but I think in truth she is almost as old as he is.

[Dr. Curry] Well I thank God for my wife, because she has truly been an inspiration to me in my life. I just want to share with you something that happened in my life. See I can remember when I didn't place the Lord first. I didn't go to church as often, but she has always been inspiring to me. And I can remember when I had to do a tour of duty for four years in the Public Health Service Corps down in Florida. And she just desired to go to church, she desired to go to church. Like I said she has always been an inspiration. And I can remember even after we got back to Connecticut, after that tour of duty, that she would go to church and I would stay home. And brothers, it seems like the brothers are the ones that are always the last to come, and but nevertheless we are coming. We will get there at some point in time.

And she and my children. I have a daughter, Sabrina, that is 36; and Derrick is 29. So I have two children. [Pastor Nathaniel] You all notice he had to ask the wife how old the children are. All men are kind of like that.

[Dr. Curry] So they would get ready to go to church, and they would leave me. And I'm at home saying wow it feels funny staying here by myself every Sunday. So as she was getting ready to go to church one Sunday, looking good and smelling good, and dressed nicely and everything. I said you all are going to church? and she said yes, so I said wait I'm coming to. I want to see what is happening over there. So I got there, and I tell you, God has a way of getting you there. I have been there ever since. I place the Lord first in all that I say and do.

And I give him all praise, honor and glory. I bring you greetings today from Saint Johns Full Gospel Deliverance Church. We are located at 27 Brown Street in Bloomfield, CT and our Apostle Dr. John E. Wilson is our pastor and founder. And I would be remiss if I didn't bring up his name while I was up here, just in case this is broadcast and he sees me. It is good to have your spiritual life together, that is first

but God wants us to keep our bodies in shape also. Because he can't use you if you are dead. Your time is up. But I stress staying in shape, and I have always loved sports. I loved sports before I became a doctor, and I still play sports. I play ball twice a week. My wife and I try to walk, we used to try to walk every day, but we kind of got away from it, we walked two miles every day together. So it is a thing that you can do together. We try to eat right, and she has me on a health fanatic diet of course.

We do a lot of fruit and vegetables. We eat some meat, but not many; we eat mostly fruit and vegetables. And we try to exercise; we just try to do things the right way. She watched this Dr. Oz show on TV, and she comes up with these new remedies all the time. I tell you, it has been beneficial though. It is always good to have someone in your corner who you know is in your corner. I want to say this too, we are sweethearts since 18 and 19 years old. I'm 62 and she is 61, and we still love each other and still do things together. We had a great game yesterday, a great game. I just came down to try to inspire El and Josees, they are coming along. I tell you they keep you going. But I put a little old school on them and I think they know it. But praise be to God. Praise be to God! He has allowed me to do what I like to do all these years. I get joy and happiness out of even that too. Amen.

[Pastor James] Amen. Amen. Sometimes we need to see a sermon, so we thank Dr. Curry and his wife for just demonstrating just being healthy; and keeping a healthy relationship with each other and with God. So we thank God so much for them.