

Joy Abiding in Him

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Elijah Bronner: We don't stop laughing because we get old. We get old because we stop laughing.

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And now for 7811, Joy, Abiding in Him, Part Two.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because "Brother, you need The Word."

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at brothersoftheword.com or Facebook Live. Welcome to today's service. Always a wonderful joy and delight to have you to tune in and join us.

Well, I would like to share just a little humor. This is courtesy of Mr. Farley and the little joke he shared with me last week so I told him I would use it and I told him that if you all didn't like it, you can see him after -- so, that's why he's not here but anyway - - anyway he says, "A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with the fly swatter. "What are you doing?" she asked. "Hunting flies" he responded. "Have you killed any?" she said. He said, "Yup. I killed three males and two females." Intrigued, she asked, "How can you tell?" He responded, "There were three on a beer can and two on the phone."

We're sharing over in the Gospel of John, over in the Gospel of John Chapter 15. The Gospel of John Chapter 15 and we're sharing verses seven through eleven. John Chapter 15 verses seven through eleven. When you get there, say "Amen". John 15, seven through eleven and we will read together there in unison. John 15 beginning with verse seven, it says "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 have loved me so, have I loved you. Continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandment, 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.” And we’re talking from the subject “Joy, abiding in Him”. Joy, abiding in Him.

This is part two with the series of a spin-off of the last series entitled “Life abiding in Him” so now we’re talking specifically because Jesus made reference to joy. He made reference to joy that His joy would remain in us and then our joy would be full. In the Amplified Bible it says -- verse eleven says, “I have told you these things that My joy and delight may be in you and that your joy and gladness may be a full measure and complete and overflowing.” That sounds like God really want us to have a good time then, He wants us to be full of joy, He wants us to be happy, He wants us to enjoy life and I love this. This is God’s will for us, this is God’s will for us. God’s will for us is not to be sad and depressed and just stressed out and we’re -- no, he wants us to have some joy, He wants us to have joy.

C. Elijah Bronner: This morning, my two oldest daughters they were leaving the house and going to have breakfast with a friend and they were just giggling. They were just giggling on the way out the door and it just gave me so much joy and pleasure to see them happy. And as a man, I see how God feels. I see why God wants us to be full of joy because I got joy just from seeing them happy and they were just giggling and just laughing, they were having so much fun and I said, “Wow, this is how the Father feels.” He wants to see us full of joy.

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He wants to see us happy. He wants to see us excited about life, enjoying life, walking with him, excited about his purposes and his plans and what life has for us and his goodness and all of life. He wants us to be excited about that. I’m going to be excited about life, excited about what God is doing. Well, that causes joy to spring up in our hearts and it causes us to be happy. We ought to be happy and joy is literally the highest form of faith because when you can have joy, it means you trust God. It’s not saying that everything is perfect, not saying you don’t have problems or issues, but it’s just saying you trust God anyhow. You know that somehow everything is going to be all right. That God is in control and that he loves you and he has you in the palm of His hand. He’s working in your life and so, your trust is in Him. You know that He has a good plan for you, He has good things in store for

you. So, joy is literally the highest expression of faith. It's the highest form of faith.

How do you think Paul and Silas were able to sing and praise God in prison at midnight? Well that was joy. It wasn't based on the fact that they were in prison. They have been beaten. They weren't rejoicing in there. They were rejoicing in the joy of the Lord. They were rejoicing because God is good. They were excited to be working as a part of his plan and to see the Kingdom unfold and to be carrying out His Will and to see His Word and Spirit in operation. They were excited, man. They were on the frontlines and they were excited about what God was doing in their lives and on top of that, they were full of the Holy Ghost. So, they were full of God and God is always happy. God is full of joy. If you read the Bible, you'll find out the Bible says, "He that sits in the heavens, He laughs." God laughs. He is full of joy. In His presence is fullness of joy. In His presence is fullness of joy and so His Will for us is for us to be full of joy and to have that joy overflowing. Jesus was full of joy.

C. Elijah Bronner: How do you know he was full of joy? I know He was because He said, "He wanted His joy to stay in us. He wanted His joy to remain in us." That's how I know He was full of joy. He was full of joy. He said, "I want My joy to be in you and your joy to be full and overflowing." And so, He wanted to pass his joy onto us and so that we can continue and walk in the joy of the Lord. Joy is powerful. It's a powerful spiritual force. It is your strength. In Nehemiah 8:10 lets us know the joy of the Lord is our strength. When you don't have any strength, when you feel weak and worn out and tired, man, refill your joy. We have to refill our joy because life sometimes will squeeze the joy out of you. Life will suck the joy out of you. People get tired of living because life has sucked the joy out of them. Now, but anytime you feel your joy waning, that's the time you go and you get refill. You fill back up on joy.

How do you fill back up on joy? Well, I'm glad you asked. You start praising God, you start worshipping God, you get in to your prayer closet, you spend time in The Word, fellowship with Him because in His presence is the fullness of joy. You will feel your joy filling back up when you begin to fill yourself with God. Your joy will automatically fill because joy is in the Spirit of God. It's in the nature of God. It's the character of God. It's a part of our

born-again spirit. Joy is on the inside of us. Joy is on the inside of us.

You know back in the Old Testament, whenever they wanted to defeat a particular army or a particular city, what they would do, they would clog up the wells. They would clog up the water wells. And that's how they would defeat cities. They go in and clog up the wells so they couldn't get access to water. Well, we have wells on the inside of us, wells of joy. And our wells become clogged over time. Life has a way of putting stones and rocks in your well and it clogs up the wells of joy. But I want you to hear something, Isaac in Genesis Chapter 26:18, the Bible says that, "Isaac dug again the wells of water because the Philistines had stacked them up." So, Isaac dug his wells back up. They had stacked them up. So, the enemy would come in and they will stack up the wells with stones and rocks and they would clog them up so you couldn't get water and that happens to us. We have stones of disappointment, stones of rejection, stones of hurt and stones of unforgiveness and bitterness and all this stress. All this stuff. Life beats on you so hard it clogs up your well and you don't have much of joy.

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C. Elijah Bronner: I remember there was a bird, a little parakeet and this little bird just had a beautiful voice, it was singing day and night. But one day, his owner was vacuuming out his cage and made a mistake in September and he did survive, but after that incident he didn't sing anymore. And that's kind of what happens to us. Life sucks a song out of you. Life can suck the song out of you. And so that's what they would do in the Old Testament. They were clog of the wells, they couldn't get water, but Isaac he dug the wells again for water. He dug them out. He dug the stuff out of the wells, so his well will be free flowing.

But listen to this, Isaac his name actually means laughter. Isaac's name means laughter and so, God is saying, "Unclog your wells with laughter. Unclog your wells with laughter." Sometime you have to laugh by faith. Even when you don't sense joy, you can laugh. Did you know that you can trick your body? Your body doesn't know the difference between a real laugh or a fake laugh. The chemical response is the same. The physiological responses in the body, their identical for a fake laugh and a real laugh. The body doesn't know any different. It's almost like a dream. When you're imagining something or dreaming, the body can't tell the

difference between the dream and reality. That's why you have a nightmare. You wake up in the cold sweat, heart beating fast, you recall someone was after you in your dream, your mind can't tell the difference between reality and imagination and this is same way with laughing. You can fake it. You can fake a laugh and your body will have the same positive response as if it was a real laugh. Everybody just laugh right now, laugh right now. Your body can't tell the difference. Your body can't tell the difference when you're faking it or if it's real. So, sometimes we have to laugh by faith. You got to laugh when you don't feel like laughing. You got to laugh when there is no reason to laugh, just laugh.

Let me read some things to you that happens when we laugh. When we laugh, it triggers the release of feel good hormones. It releases the body's natural pain killers. You don't need to take pain killers, you just need to laugh. If the stress hormones are decreased, it boosts the natural killer T-cells that kills germs and cancer cells, so it boosts your natural killer T-cells. It increases circulation and blood flow, it increases your heart rate, it's actually very similar to an aerobic workout. Laughing actually increases your circulation, your heart rate, your blood flow. It increases youth hormones, you don't need to go and shoot yourself out with youth hormones, no just laugh. Laughter naturally increases youth hormones. We don't stop laughing because we get old, we get old because we stopped laughing. Laughter increases your youth hormones. It boosts your immune system. Laughter gives the diaphragm muscles a workout, so you laugh, you can work out your diaphragm muscles. Laughter is good for the lungs, clears your lungs out, it's good for the lungs. It reduces tension, reduces blood pressure, it relaxes us and it causes us to sleep so much better.

C. Elijah Bronner: Laughter is equivalent to inner jogging, it's like jogging on the inside. So, it gives the whole system a workout and so, laughter is beneficial, it's so beneficial to the body. Charlie Chaplin, he said, "A day without laughter, is a day wasted." If you haven't laughed a day, then you've just wasted the whole day. A day without laughter is a day wasted. They have some studies that show that children laughed so much more than adults and so, I've heard some numbers, I don't know if they're true, but some numbers say, the children who laughed 300 to 400 times a day, adults laugh like 15 times a day. So, we're missing a hundreds of

laughs a day, just because we grew up and we know we got so much responsibilities and stress until we stopped laughing and as a result, it begins to tear us down and that's why laughter is so important.

Jesus knows the benefits of laughing. He knows the benefits of joy. That's why, He says, "I want my joy to be in you." I don't want you to be all stressed out, and beat out, and burned out. No, I want you to be full of joy, full of laughter because you trust God, you know God is in control. You know He has your back. You know, He is for you, so we have reason to laugh. You know your sins have been forgiven? Men, that's enough to laugh right there. You're sins have been forgiven! Did you know you'd been restored the favor with God? Men, that's enough to laugh. You have been restored to favor with God! That's enough to laugh, so we have so many reasons to have joy and it is an important force in our lives that causes us to have victory, it causes us to have tremendous physical benefits in our lives and spiritual benefits. You know when you're joyful, you treat people better. You know if I'm laughing and laughing, you don't irritate me as much because I'm so full of joy, I'm not easily offended, I'm not easily irritated if I'm full of joy, but if I'm not full of joy then I'll have a few words right back at you.

Do you understand and so, when you're full of joy, you'd treat people better, you love better, you're more generous. There is something in this force of joy that is powerful and that's why Jesus said, "I want My Joy to be in you. I don't want yours to be full and complete and overflowing, overflowing joy, overflowing joy. "Did you know that Isaiah 12:3 says, "With joy shall you draw water out of the wells of salvation." So, we have wells of joy on the inside and that joy is the bucket man that draws water out of the salvation and we have allowed our wells to be clogged because of so much adversity and discontentment and disappointment and so forth. But no, we can unclog our wells with joy of the Lord to fill us once again and live our lives joyful. This joy ultimately comes out of abiding with Him. God is our chief source of joy and when you are connected to Him, His joy flows into us and so if you'd find yourself irritable and depressed, I can guarantee you your connection to God has slipped. Check your connection with Him, your time with Him because joy flows out of His Spirit into our spirit and so, that's why in His presence His fullness of joy, so we haven't spent much time in His presence if our joy levels are waning. So, we have to refill, because life will beat the joy out of

us and every time it beats you, you just refill and you'd laugh, and you come back and laugh right back in life. So, this joy, it comes from abiding in Him, it's in direct proportion to our connection with Him. Our joy is produced from our union with Him. He fills us with joy. He fills us with joy. Then I noticed in our text, he said verse 11—John 15:11, “Notice that these things have I spoken unto you that my joy, may remain in you and that your joy might be full.

C. Elijah Bronner: Now, I paid very close attention to that because He said, “These things I have spoken to you that My joy will be in you and your joy will be full.” So, I wanted know what he said, because He said, “These things that I have said to you, so your joy would be full and complete and overflowing and My joy will be in you.” Well, I went back and track it down exactly what he said for us to have this joy. This is what He said, number one, He said, “This calls for joy.” He says, “We can live in Him and He in us.” That's why he talked about abiding. We can live in Him and He in us. So, we can have constant communion and fellowship, we can live and dwell in him and He in us, that gives you joy, that gives you joy because He is abiding in you and you're abiding in Him. And the second thing He said, He says, “His life in us causes wonderful things to happen. His life in us causes wonderful things to happen.” The life of God in you will cause wonderful things to happen in your life. Number three, He wants more for us than we realize. He wants more for us than we realized. He wants us to reach our full potential and He is willing to help us. He wants to help us reach our full potential. You'll see that in John 15 when He talks about, you know you producing fruit and bearing more fruit and He wants more for us even those that are bearing fruit, He prunes, so you'll bear more fruit. With that saying, “I want you to live a full life to your full potential. I want more for you then you realize that you even know for yourself.”

So that's God. He said, I want to help you. So I'm in you to help bring out more out of you. He wants to bring more out of us and He wants us to enjoy His full Will for our lives and full completeness. Number four, here is something else He said, “So that we can have this joy, He said, we can ask for if we will and it will be done in His Name. We can ask the Father in Jesus' Name and it will be done for us. So, he is letting us know, you can have joy because you have privilege with the Father now. You have special privileges with the Father because of Me. This is what Jesus is stating here in John 15. You have special privileges with

the Father because of Me. You can ask what you will, asking Him anything in My Name and He will do it. Man, that ought to give you some joy, that ought to give you some joy, that's powerful. Ask Him anything in His Name, he will do it. You know, I was praying about something today and I actually received the answer before I even had the chance to pray for it. I have simply thought about it. I had thought about praying, but never pray for what I have thought about praying for, but the answer manifests and that's a wow, Lord you answer that and I didn't even ask for it.

00:20:04

He said, "Yeah, I give you the desires of your heart." Ain't that good? Man, that's (00:20:08) rejoice over there. He gives us the desires of our heart. Sometimes you don't even get a chance to vocalize it or get it out. He knows in your heart, he'll answer while it's in your heart. That's giving us the desires of our heart. And I recognized, I said, "Father, you're so good, you answer their prayer not I've even asked it." I said, "You answered them before I had the chance to ask it." That's how good God is, he answered their prayer before I could even ask it. God's given us the desires of our heart. He knows what's in your heart even before you ask it. Praise! I wish I had three favor that would just rejoice over there. Oh, man! So, that's one of things he said.

Number five, Jesus said, "We can rejoice because he loves us." He said, "Because he loves us." He said, "Because you can abide my love, same way I abided my father's love." He loves us, so he gave us that (00:21:02) of these things that I said them to you that my joy be your joy before. Number five, he loves us, we're always on his mind, we are always on his mind, we're always on his mind. He thinks about us all the time. The bible says that his torch toward us are enumerable, you can't even count on. He's thinking about us all the time, all the time. He's always mindful of us, and blessed us and increased us more and more us and our children. Praise God. Jesus said, "This is another reason you can rejoice because I love you. You can rest in my love, you can rejoice in my love, you can be renewed in my love."

Number six, "I can love and I can stay in his love." So, we can enjoy his love but we can also love, we walk in those love now. So, we can also love. He furnishes us the love to love with. Ain't not good? God tells us, "Love one another" but he doesn't leave you on your own, he furnishes you the love to love one another with.

He gives us the love that we are to use to love one another with. That's awesome. So, God furnishes us, his love to love one another. And so Jesus said, "You can rejoice because you too can love with the same love that I love you with." Praise God.

And then number seven, "His word can live in us and we can do it." His word can live in us, if you abided me and my words abide in you, his words can live in us and we can do his word. That's another reason to rejoice. And then the final one, this final thing he says that he talked about, "Abiding in him" it produces all of these wonderful spiritual forces in our lives. So, the love, the joy, the peace and goodness, generous, patience, faith, meekness, temperance. All these wonderful forces are produced in our lives as a result. And so, that's exactly what Jesus said I went through and enumerate it, I went through and checked everything he said. He said, "These things that I said unto you that my joy would be in you and that your joy would be full." So, you just get a hold, man, go back and listen to this again. Don't rush over that, I want you to hear it. Jesus said, "These things I said unto you, "My joy will remain in you and your joy would be full."

So, get each point I just enumerated, meditate on it, and begin to walk those things out and it causes great joy, causes great joy. Praised God, praised God. Men, I'm out of time. Where did the time go when you're having fun? Oh man! Oh man! I'm having so much fun and I'm out of time. Praise God, we got to do this more often. Oh man! I'm just having so much fun and I'm out of time. Praise God, we need another day during the week. Man, yeah, this is just not enough. Praise God, that's the joy of the Lord, that's the joy of Jesus.

He loves us so much and he releases his joy into our lives. He wants us to live an overcoming life full of joy. It's our strength, it's our victory, it's our witnessing tool, it spills over unto others. We're to be infectious with this joy, we're to infect other people. It is contagious when we have the joy of the Lord and we are able to affect people wherever we go to allow the joy of the Lord to spring out of our lives. You have to live like you're saved, live like you know Jesus, live like you're going to heaven, live like you're already in heaven because we are citizens of heaven right now. We are citizens of heaven right now. Live like that and there's joy, man, it comes out of heaven and we enjoy heaven's joy right now.

The father is all about joy. You know when the prodigal son came home? First thing the father did was throw a party. First thing he did was throw a party. He's so full of joy. He was so full of joy. He didn't have time to get angry. He didn't have time to get angry. He said put a robe on him, put a ring on his finger, bring him shoes and he says, "Start the music, we're about to have a party because my son has come home."

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God is full of joy. There's more joy and rejoice again heaven over one son that repent. Man, heaven is full of music, heaven is full joy, it's full of joy and its joy has come to earth and touch our souls and we're able to live in this joy and enjoy it for just of us.

Turn your (00:25:27) at a time. Glory to God. Hallelujah, glory, glory, glory, glory, glory, glory. Amen. Everybody just laugh one more time, one more laugh. Praise God. Let the joy of the Lord feel you, let the joy feel you. Man, let your worries go, let your cares go, let your concerns go and just be a kid in the Lord again. Let the joy of the Lord just feel you and overtake it, and overflow you. Enjoy him, enjoy him, enjoy him. Praise God, praise God, praise God.

Let's pray, "Father we just love you and praise you. Thank you for your super national joy that's in our lives Lord and we just love you and praise you for it. Thank you for Jesus' joy that's in us and thank you for letting it overflow to others. Lord, let it be your great (00:26:19) to witness to others and let it be your powerful force in our lives as we live this overcoming life in Christ. in Jesus name we pray." Let every heart say, "Amen."

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