

Joy Abiding In Him

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C. Elijah Bronner: Life is better when you're happy.

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And now for 7814 "Joy Abiding In Him" part 5.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining us today at 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 brothersoftheworld.com or Facebook Live. Welcome to today's service. Always a wonderful delight and joy to have you join us. I would like to share just a little humor, this is a real brief, It just says that a recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mentioned it to them. And the women said, "Amen, amen." Praise God.

Well, we're doing part 5 of something we started several weeks ago and we're talking about "Joy Abiding In Him." Let's read our opening text there in John Chapter 15 verses 7 through 11 -- John 15 verse 7 through 11 verse 7, when you get there, say "Amen". Verse 7 says, if he abide in me and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my father glorified that you bear much fruit so shall you be my disciples as the father have loved to me so have I loved you. Continue ye in my love. If you keep my commandments you 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. We said in the amplified Bible that I set these things that my joy and delight may be in you and that your joy and gladness may be a full measure complete and overflowing. So, we are talking about joy abiding in him. This is part 5 and we're trying to conclude this series today, Joy Abiding In Him part 5. So, I noticed that he wants us full of joy and wants our joy complete, full and overflowing.

I found three primary reasons that Jesus is so concerned about as being full of joy in heaven and overflowing. Three primary

reasons that Jesus wants our joy full. Three primary reasons that God wants us happy and full of joy. Well, the first reason is joy is our strength. Nehemiah chapter 8 verse 10, "The joy of the lord is our strength." If you don't have joy then you have no strength, you have no strength to fight, you have no strength to overcome, that's why when people are depressed; depressed literally means pushed down. So, if your spirit is pushed down you have no strength and (00:04:14) or force or energy to overcome anything.

I remember a man, he was very sick and somebody asked him, he said, "Have you rebuked the devil?" He said, "I'm not in any way to antagonize anybody. So, that's why Jesus wants us full of joy because when you're full of joy, you're full of strength and from that strength now you can fight, now you can have a place of victory, you can use all of your arsenal because you are so full of joy, you're strong and now you're able to fight. So, when you're depressed, you're pushed down and you're not able to fight because you're pushed down and you're bit down and there is no energy or force to fight with.

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So, you can't overcome if you're depressed. You can't overcome if you're depressed and so that's the first reason that he wants our joy full and overflowing because it is our strength, everybody says strength.

The second reason he wants our joy full and overflowing so that it can spill over onto others. It becomes a great witness, it becomes a great witness of him. We represent him, we represent his kingdom, and so our joy is contagious, it rubs off on other people. We can actually spread joy. So, if we have enough joy for ourselves and we are overflowing, now it spills over onto others. Other people can get happy because we are happy. So, that's why he wants our joy full, complete, and overflowing so that we can spread joy to the sad, depressed world. We can lift it up. Everywhere we go, we can make it a little more joyous everywhere we go. Mother Teresa said let no one come to you without leaving better and happier. How are you going to make people live happier if you are not overflowing with joy yourself? So that's the second reason that Jesus wants us full of joy so that we can spill over to others and allow our joy to rub off on others.

The third reason that Jesus wants us full of joy and he wants his joy in us to be full, and complete and overflowing is because it makes everything better. Everybody say, "better". Life is better when you're happy, everything is better. You're more generous when you're joyful, you are more generous, you are more loving, you know, you can withstand more. So, everything is better. Everything is better when you are full of joy. You are friendlier, you are more attractive, you are more energized, you are more alive, and you just enjoy life and you are enjoying yourself and it makes everything better when you are full of joy.

So, those are the three main things that came to me or I felt inspired by the Holy Spirit is that it's our strength, everybody say, "strength", everybody say, "spill over". It spills over unto others and then the third when it's better, everybody say, "better". So, it gives us strength, it spills over unto others and in makes life better, it makes everything better when it is done in joy.

Now, we also said there were three things in these verses when John 15 verse 7 through 11, we said that there were three things primarily that Jesus said, "I said, these things to you that your joy will be full, complete, and overflowing." And the three things he said was, number one, we could live in him and he in us. We could live in him and he in us. Remember when I say live in him. We can live in him. So, we make our bowed(ph), we make our dwelling, we'd live and we reside in him. We live in him. The Bible says that our lives are hid in Christ. We'd live in him, we'd live in him. So, we can live in him and he lives in us, that's the first thing he said for joy.

The second thing he said, for our joy he said, he loves us, he loves us. We always on his mind, we can rest in his love. He's always planning wonderful things. He loves us, he loves us, so that's second thing. We can live in him and he loves us. The third thing is he answers our prayer. We have special privilege with the father and he answers our prayer. We have special privilege with the father because of Jesus and he answers our prayer. Praised God! Isn't that good? So, those are three things that he said for our joy. We can live in him, he loves us, and he answers our prayer.

Now, this is a scripture that we haven't been to. Flip over to John chapter 17, John chapter 17. Remember John the apostle, joy is mentioned in the Gospel of John and he talks about it. Jesus

teaches on it and John chapter 15, he also teaches on it and John chapter 16, and he also teaches on it in John chapter 17, John chapter 17. Now, here in John 17, just look at verse 13, look at verse 13. Now, this is Jesus and he's talking to the father. So, this is the Lord's prayer, not the prayer that we traditionally know our father which art in heaven hallowed be thy name.

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No, this is a prayer that Jesus prayed before he left the Earth. He prayed this prayer and the whole 17 Chapter of John is, "Jesus praying and his pouring his heart out" and so this is taken out of their prayer. But right in the middle of his prayer in verse 13, notice what he says. He says, "And now I come to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves." So, Jesus is talking to God and he is speaking and he is praying and he said, "Father, I've said these things and I've said them so that my joy would be in them and my joy would be fulfilled in them. They would have my joy and my joy would be fulfilled in them."

Well, I had to go back and read the entire 17 chapter of John because I wanted to know what it is that he said, what it is that he prayed in this chapter where he talks about, "I've said these things that my joy would be fulfilled in them." Three things I came up with that he said. He said, number one, he is praying for us. That gives us joy to know that Jesus is praying for us. He is praying for us. Man, doesn't that give you joy? Jesus is praying for you. Jesus is praying for you. In fact, that's his present-day ministry right now. His praying for us right now. He's on the right hand of the Father and a seeding(ph) force, he's our ancestor. He prays for us, he prays for us. You're talking about perfect payer, Jesus prays for us. He prays for us.

Number two, he said we have special relationship with him. He's praying for us, we have special relationship with him. And number three he keeps us. He keeps us and he said, "Father, keep them." He kept praying about how the Father would keep us. Keep us in this world, how he would take care of us and keep us. Everybody say, "He pray for us. We have special relationship with him and he keeps us. Praised God." The power of God keeps you, the power of God keeps you. Man, that's good. The power of God keeps you. He prays for us, we have special relationship with him and he keeps us, he keeps us.

Now, over in 2 John, we learned three more things. Now I notice John -- remember John talked about joy in the Gospel of John, but now he talks about joy over in 2 John. So, John is a pretty jolly fellow. He's a pretty jolly fellow. He talked about John quite a bit. Now Paul is the chief apostle of joy because the whole book of Philippians is about joy. The whole book of Philippians references the joy about 19 times. So, if you ever need a speed burst of joy, just get over into the book of Philippians, read those four chapters and that's like giving yourself energy shot of joy.

If you ever feel depressed, a little down, a little burden and you need a quick energy shot, well, flip over and read those four chapters of Philippians. It will give you instant boost of joy. Praised God. That's a little secret guy, that's a little secret. So, if you want to take a quick energy boost of joy, you read Philippians 1,2,3,4 because joy is the chief subject of Philippians in joy. And so, he wrote joy in a very unjoyous time, he was in prison but he was so full of joy. Man, he was so full of joy and you never would know he was in prison when he wrote that. He was just so full of joy. So, joy overcomes all of our circumstances, it's our strength and he had joy. And man, he just rejoiced, he rejoiced.

You find that the disciples, they were so full of joy, the Holy Spirit was constantly refilling them with joy and with the Holy Spirit. They will be in constantly re-filled with the joy of the Lord and with the Holy Spirit. So, they would go to different towns, man, and they would be beaten and imprisoned and stoned and all these things. The more that they were oppressed and persecuted, the happier they got. They rejoiced in their persecution. They rejoiced because it was an honor and a privilege to be persecuted for Christ. So, they were like, "I can't believe it, man. I took some strikes today for Jesus. I've been persecuted with him and they were full of joy.

When they were persecuting them, thinking that they were going to stop the movement, they were actually pouring gas on the fire. So, they were getting happier, they were more exited. They counted it worthy to suffer for his name. They counted that great honor, they counted that great glory and so they actually rejoiced in their tribulations. Now, doesn't the apostle James says, "Count it all joy when you fall in endeavor's test, trials, and tribulations." Well, he's telling you to count the joy because joy is just strength

and you can't fight in any trial or temptation or test if you don't have any strength.

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He said, "The first thing you do when you fall into trouble, man, be with your joy because that's going to be your strength and that's going to cause you to overcome." You may be able to use your faith, you may be able to use God's word because you have joy, you have something to fight with, you have strength and you have some energy and force in your life when you're full of joy. You can fight and withstand anything as long as your joy is hard(ish) because there's your strength. Count it all joy when you fall into endeavor's test, trials and tribulation. Joy is the secret weapon. It's the secret weapon so that's why the devil wants to rub us around joy because he can get the joy you sapped down and you easily defeat it. But if you're happy you're like, "Devil, is that all you got? Glory to God. I get to use everything I've learned. I get to use God's word. I get to use a shield of faith and a sword of the spirit which is the word of God. So, you get to use all your equipment's, so you're happy when you fall into trouble. You're happy when you fall into trouble. Praised God.

So, he said, "Count it all joy" because now you get to use everything. It's almost like a football team or basketball team. If they practice, practice, practice, and never had a game, that would be kind of boring, wouldn't it? So, when you fall into trouble, that's like game time. You've been going to church all your life, you've been reading the word all your life and so when you fall into trouble, now you have an opportunity to use everything you've learned. This is game time, this is the big game. So, that's what he was saying, count it all joy, man, when you fall into a hard time because now it's game time. I've been practicing for this all my life. Oh, man, praised God. Give the Lord some praise right there oh, man.

Okay, look in 2 John, 2 John now. You don't have to turn that but he says three things I gleaned from 2 John. He says, "Walk in the word, walk in love and be full of joy." That's what he said in 2 John. Walk in the word -- if I say walk in the word, walk in love, and be full of joy.

Now, Alicia heard me say that the other the day and when Alicia heard it, she said, "Have you considered that walking in love is

God? Walking in the word is Jesus because he is the word and God is love.” And then she said, “Have you considered that the Holy Spirit is joy” because he’s the one that fills us with joy? I said, “No, Alicia, I haven’t, but thank you for pointing that out.” So, when you walk in the word, you’re walking in Jesus. When you walk in love, you’re walking in God because God is love. Jesus is the word. So, John has said, “Walk in Jesus, walk in God and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Those are the three things he shares. Walk in the word, everybody say walk in the word, walk in love, and be full of joy. Praise God, praise God.

Now, we talked about the power of three, I’ve been adding to this list every week. Every week I see more and more sets of three. Remember I told you that the Holy Spirit teaches us in groups of three and so we talked about power, love, and psalm(ph). God hasn’t given us a spirit of (00:18:43) power, love and psalm. We talked about love, mercy, and do justly, walk humbly. We talked about kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness, peace and joy. We talked about be joyful, be thankful, be prayerful from the 1 Thessalonians 5.

We talked about be feel with the spirit speaking to yourself in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We talked about the three tenets of the new covenant which is that you would know him, he would be in you and he would remember your sense no more. We talked about now (00:19:13) these three; faith, hope and love and the greatness of Jesus love. We talked about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We are a tri-part being spirit, you are spirit, you possess a soul and you live in a body; spirit, soul, body. We talked about Colossians, it tells us to be loving, to be peaceful, to be thankful.

We talked about that there are three in heaven that testify the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit; three on Earth that testify spirit, blood water. We talked about Jesus had three men with him Peter, James and John. We talked about that God is the father of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Here’s a new list. These are things I’ve added to that list since the last session. Here are some other things I added to the list. In the Old Testament, they were led by their sight, by their senses and by circumstances.

Under the New Testament or the New Covenant, we are led by the word, by the spirit, and by faith. Here is something else, the Bible teaches in a couple of places that if you want to seek the days and live a long life, do these three things. Watch your mouth, do good and seek peace. That's what the Bible says. If you want to live a long life and see good days, everybody say, "Watch your mouth, do good and seek peace." I thought about these three things. We are royal preset, Holy nation, chosen generation. I thought about the fact that 3 John 2 says, we are a prosper, be in health even as our soul prospers. I thought about Jesus himself, he's the way, the truth and the life. I thought about God himself, he is light, he is love, he is life. I thought about Jesus over in the book of Hebrews, he is the same yesterday, today and forevermore. I thought about this one, this is Romans 12:12, we ought to rejoice and hope, be faithful in prayer, be patient and affliction.

The Holy Spirit teaches in three. I thought about the gifts of spirit, the nine gifts of the spirit, they are divided up into three sets of three and they are divided up as the power gifts, the vocal gifts and the revelation gifts. The power gifts are the gifts of healing or the working of miracles, the gift of special faith, those are the power gifts. The revelation gifts are the word of knowledge, word of wisdom and the spirit of discernment. Those are the revelation gifts. And then you have the vocal gifts, that's tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophecy. So, the nine gifts of the spirit are broken up into three sets of three. I said, "Wow, Lord you teach everything in three." He said, "Yeah pretty much."

And even the fruit of the spirit, the nine fruit of the spirit, some scholars break those up into three sets. The three of them are for you, three of them are for how you deal with others and three of them are for your relationship with God. So, everything man seems to do with three. Everything deals with three. Man, I was just about to give you my happy list, but I'm out of time again. Oh, my goodness, oh my goodness. I've been promising you this from last time, but I guess I have to share it next time. Turn to your neighbor and say he'll share next time. I have a little happy -- I have a little happy list I want to share with, but I'm out of time, out of time. It's good, it's a good list. We'll share it later. Praise God.

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