

2 Jn. 1:12 Having many things to write to you, I did not wish *to do so* with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our **joy may be full**.

**b. By Asking from God What We Need to Honor and Serve Him**

Jn. 16:24 "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your **joy may be full**.

**c. By Believing What God Has Revealed**

Rom. 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all **joy** and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Pet. 1:8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with **joy** inexpressible and full of glory,

**d. By Being Unified in God's Defined Direction**

Phil. 2:2 fulfill my **joy** by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

2 Tim. 1:4-5 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with **joy**,<sup>5</sup> when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

**e. By Seeing God's Work Impact the Word**

Acts 13:49-52 And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.<sup>50</sup> But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.<sup>51</sup> But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.<sup>52</sup> And the disciples were filled with **joy** and with the Holy Spirit.

### Takeaways

**JOY:** *Willful delight in the Lord, on His character, and in His promises regardless of our circumstances. Joy is an attitude controlled by the truth of who God is, and what He has declared to be true.*

- Joy is a result of **personal choice**, not external circumstances
- Joy is a result of **unchanging truth**, not the absence of trials

**BEING FILLED WITH JOY:** *Comprehending the truth from God and letting it govern (perf pass part) our thoughts, responses, & actions, regardless of circumstances.*

## Finding the Full Joy that God Desires You to Have

1 John 1:4 And these things we write to you **that your joy may be full**.

### 1. Review a Basic Explanation of this Verse

- a. "These things": What has been personally witnessed and heard
- b. "We write to you": Intentional, written communication
- c. "That": The purpose of the writing
- d. "Your joy": Some already possessed
- e. "May be made full": Maximized joy

### 2. What Is Required to Understand this Verse (& This Book)?

- a. The meaning of "joy"
- b. The meaning and extent of "full"

### 3. What Is the Biblical Meaning of "Joy"

- a. Joy is a result of **personal choice**, not external circumstances
- b. Joy is a result of **unchanging truth**, not the absence of trials
- c. Joy: **Willful delight in the Lord, on His character, and in His promises regardless of our circumstances. Joy is an attitude controlled by the truth of who God is, and what He has declared to be true.** (Eph 5:18)

### 4. What Are Illustrations of Biblical Joy?

#### a. The Result of Jesus' Obedience

Heb. 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the **joy** that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

#### b. When One's Purpose Fulfilled

Jn. 3:29 "He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, **rejoices greatly** ["with joy rejoices"] because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this **joy** of mine is fulfilled. [John the Baptist]

#### c. Joy Promised at Jesus' Birth

Lk. 2:10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great **joy** which will be to all people.

#### d. Joy at Salvation

Matt. 13:20 "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with **joy**;

Mk. 4:16 "These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with **gladness**;

Lk. 8:13 "But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with **joy**; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

**e. Joy in the Resurrection**

Matt. 28:8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great **joy**, and ran to bring His disciples word.

Lk. 24:41 But while they still did not believe for **joy**, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?"

Jn. 16:20-22 "Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into **joy**.<sup>21</sup> "A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for **joy** that a human being has been born into the world.<sup>22</sup> "Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your **joy** no one will take from you.

**f. Joy at the Ascension**

Lk. 24:52 And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great **joy**,

**g. Joy in the Midst of Tribulation**

2 Cor. 7:4 Great *is* my boldness of speech toward you, great *is* my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly **joyful** [in the joy] in all our tribulation.

2 Cor. 8:2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their **joy** and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.

Jas. 1:2 My brethren, count it all **joy** when you fall into various trials,

Heb. 10:34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and **joyfully** [with joy] accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

Col. 1:11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with **joy**;

1 Thes. 1:6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with **joy** of the Holy Spirit,

**h. Joy at the Conversion of Others**

Acts 15:3 So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great **joy** to all the brethren.

**i. Joy as a Lifestyle Focus**

Rom. 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and **joy** in the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all **joy** and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2 Cor. 1:24 Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your **joy**; for by faith you stand.

Phil. 1:25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and **joy** of faith,

**j. Joy in Leadership**

Heb. 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with **joy** and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

**k. Joy in Spiritual Parenting**

Phil. 4:1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my **joy** and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

3 Jn. 1:4 I have no greater **joy** than to hear that my children walk in truth.

**l. Joy from the Spirit**

Gal. 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

**m. Joy from Experiencing the Obedience of Others**

Phlm. 1:7 For we have great **joy** and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother.

**n. Joy as Eternal Reward**

Matt. 25:21 "His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the **joy** of your lord.'

Matt. 25:23 "His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the **joy** of your lord.'

**5. How Is Biblical Joy "Made Full?"**

**By comprehending the truth from God and letting it govern** (perf pass part) **our thoughts, responses, & actions, regardless of circumstances.**

**a. By Means of God's Spoken and Written Revelation**

Jn. 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My **joy** may remain in you, and *that* your **joy** may be full.

Jn. 17:13 "But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My **joy** fulfilled in themselves.

1 Jn. 1:4 And these things we write to you that your **joy** may be full.