

Joy Fulfilled
July 27, 2014
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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

One of the most amazing passages of scripture in the Bible is the prayer that Jesus prayed for us just before He went to the cross to die for our sins.

As we read an excerpt from that prayer this morning we see, as the Lord has been teaching us, that His heart's desire is that we be united as one.

John 17:9-11

- 9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.
- 10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.
- 11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*.

And then Jesus prayed:

John 17:12-13

- 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest

me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

- 13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, **that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.**

Jesus said in

Matthew 16:18 that He would build His Church:

...upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

There are a lot of reasons the Lord built His Church from which He established all His Churches:

Jesus established Lighthouse Baptist Church to carry out the Great Commission:

Matthew 28:18-20

- 18 ...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
- 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world.

In the days to come you are going to find us working hard at doing a better job of this than ever before.

Jesus established Lighthouse Baptist Church to be a dwelling place for God in this community where you can come and experience the very presence of the Lord Himself:

Ephesians 2:19-22

- 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;
- 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*;
- 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:
- 22 In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation (*dwelling place*) of God through the Spirit.

Jesus established Lighthouse Baptist Church to be a pillar upon the top of which the truth is to be held high for all the world to see:

1Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

I am convinced that one of the most important reasons that Jesus established Lighthouse Baptist Church was to give us the vehicle through which we might be one as He and the Father are one.

Now with that said, and, I believe, well established and proven from scripture; today we are going to look at the next desire that Jesus wants accomplished in us as we truly become one in Him (and you are surely going to love this one.)

The fellowship and the unity we have in and through our Church is the means through which we can experience the joy the Bible describes as **joy unspeakable and full of glory**:

1Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with **joy unspeakable and full of glory**:

Jesus said:

John 17:13

And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they (*that's us*) might have **my joy** fulfilled in themselves.

Jesus did not just pray that we might have joy; He prayed that we might have HIS joy fulfilled in us!

Jesus refers to this same joy in

John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that **my joy** might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.

What is so special about joy? For one thing, it is often what many of us literally live for.

We work and work and work in the hope that at some point we can get ahead far enough to take a vacation or go and do something that brings us some joy.

We strive to catch that big fish or to get a shot at that big buck or to score that game-winning run.

We live to see that little one take his first step or say her first word.

We risk everything for the joy of being in love.

We are willing to suffer enormous consequences for the temporary pleasures of sin; looking for joy in all the wrong places.

Of all the joy you have ever experienced, whether a lot or a little; when have you experienced joy that could only be described as “joy unspeakable and full of glory”?

What is the difference in the ordinary joy that we all know and having the joy of the Lord fulfilled in us?

There is joy that we as the children of God can share with Jesus; and it is not the joy you go looking for in all the wrong places.

The Lord wants HIS joy fulfilled in us. We are going to look today at just some of the joy we can share with Jesus.

For some of you, this may sound boring and dull.

However, for those who know Jesus, for those who are born again; this joy will be worth whatever price or sacrifice it takes to experience it.

As I researched the scriptures looking for description of what brought joy to our Lord, here are some of the things I discovered.

First we are going to look at:

I. The joy of anticipation.

A. There is great joy to be experienced in looking forward to what is ahead of us.

1. Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

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 is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2. Have you ever wondered what actually made Jesus go through with it?
Given a choice, you know you couldn't have gone through with it.
3. When He prayed in Gethsemane, "If it be possible, let this cup pass from me," why did He not get up and walk away?
4. The Word of God says that He endured it all because of the joy that would someday come as a result.
5. Why do you stay faithful when others do not?
6. Why do you support your Church and sacrifice for the cause of Christ when others do not?
7. I'll tell you why; it's for the joy that is coming; and not just in heaven either, although that is going to be awesome!
8. Brother Ray mentioned last week how that this place erupts with joy when we baptize a new believer.
 - a. It is because hell doesn't get to claim this one.
 - b. It is because we all had a part as co-laborers with Christ in it.

c. And the greater the part we played,
the greater the joy we experience.

B. There is also the joy of anticipated answers to prayer.

1. As you begin to learn to pray and as your prayer life begins to flourish, certain things become expected.

2. We know some things that everybody doesn't know; for example:

1John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

We know that we have eternal life!

3. We know that we love each other and have already overcome the world.

1John 5:2-5

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

4. And because of that, we know that God is going to answer our prayers!

1John 5:14-15

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

5. What we don't know is just how the Lord is going to answer our prayers.

Ephesians 3:20

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

4. Sometimes God does exactly what we ask; sometimes He just blows us away in amazement!

5. There is great joy in anticipation of what God is going to do next!

II. Then there is the joy of the journey.

A. The joy of the journey is the biggest part of the joy we share with the Lord down here in this life on earth.

1. Obviously, most of our life is spent in between the big remarkable events that many or most of us live for.
2. How sad it is when we miss the joy that lies in the details by just looking for the big stuff; there is joy in the little things that we share with the Lord every day.
3. Lisa and I have this sweet spot in our home out on our front porch where we go out early in the morning and have our coffee; this is where we talk about our day and where we meet with the Lord and pray.
4. There God sends us birds and squirrels and bunnies and cool breezes; it is a place of great peace and real joy where the Lord meets with us and refreshes us.

B. Jesus is with us all day every day.

1. All you have to do to experience the joy of the Lord's presence is to open your eyes and see what He is doing.
2. When that phone call or that car trouble happened that made you late, that you got upset about; that was probably Jesus saving you from some disaster the Devil had waiting for you down the road; sometimes we actually see it; most of the time we don't.
3. That situation on the job that stresses you out so much is probably the Lord getting you

prepared for something much bigger He has in store for you later on.

C. There are many occasions of rejoicing every day of our journey here in this world.

1. We rejoice when we hear of God blessing and answering the prayers of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

2. We rejoice in the successes of the missionaries we support.

Acts 15:3

And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

3. We can even learn to rejoice in trials and troubles because we know what God can and will do through them.

Luke 6:20-23

20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, **Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.**

21 **Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.**

22 **Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.**

23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward *is* great in heaven:

4. There is great joy in giving.

2Corinthians 8:2

How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

5. Giving has never been about money; it is about honor to the Lord...but it is also about what God is able to do with it.

What God does with the faithful giving of even the poorest believer is truly amazing.

6. Remember that widow with her two mites; Jesus said she gave more than they all!

III. Lastly we see the joy of accomplishment.

A. That big day, when what the Lord died for, is ultimately complete is the day we all should be living for!

1. What was the joy that was set before the Lord that was worth so much that He was willing to endure the cross and all the suffering that went with it?

2. Jesus knew exactly what He was facing when He said “not my will but thine be done;” and He also knew exactly what is coming because of it...and to Him it was worth it all!

3. One day in heaven itself, a multitude of believers like us stretching further than the eye can see will behold the glory of the Lord. Jesus' prayer will be answered!

John 17:24

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

4. We will be in our new bodies; no sin to hold us back; no self will to get in the way; heaven will resound with the praise we lift up to the Lord; you won't be shy about raising your hands...and nobody will be bragging on anybody except Jesus.

5. 1John 3:2

...but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

B. We also get to experience the joy of accomplishment even now.

1. Every new believer brings the joy of accomplishment; hell cannot have this one!
2. Every saved marriage brings the joy of accomplishment.
3. Every victory over sin and addiction brings the joy of accomplishment.

4. God blessing and prospering His children as we learn to follow right principles brings the joy of accomplishment.

5. Keeping a good attitude and sweet spirit when we lose by 20 runs at softball brings the joy of accomplishment.

In Conclusion:

Let me tell you about some joy to come.

A bunch of you are going to sign up and go to work serving in our AWANA Bible Club; we will train you, we will equip you and you will excel at working with these little ones.

You will experience joy today as you respond to God speaking to your heart about serving these kids; anticipating what God will do.

You will experience joy of the journey each and every time you prepare for your part and every time you listen to their verses or teach them their lessons or pin on their awards or help them in their games.

You will experience the joy of accomplishment when you see hell robbed of those who you served as they come to know Jesus; knowing you had a direct part in teaching them what Jesus has done for them.

And you will experience joy when you see them in heaven and share in their gratitude for the greatest gift ever given.

Let me tell you about some more joy to come.

We are going to expand our missions giving. God is calling us to do it and I know you will respond.

There is one particular work the Lord has laid on my heart that is different from what we have done in the past.

There is an orphanage down in Mexico City that is supported and operated by one of our sister Churches right over here in Santa Fe.

They are taking kids off the street that have no one to love them, kids that can't read or write, kids that spend every day hungry, neglected and abused.

They are giving them a home, feeding and clothing them, teaching them to read and write and most important of all, teaching them about Jesus!

Folks, we are going to save some of those kids!

**We, standing together as one in the Lord,
are going to step up and let the Lord do
through us what the world needs most.**

**It won't be like giving to World this or
Global that...every cent we give goes
straight to providing for those kids; you can
even go there and see it for yourself.**

**What will be your reward, you ask?
Joy unspeakable and full of glory!**