



Finding Inexpressible Joy

I read this quote the other day...

“Happiness is part of joy, but in addition, there is a strong sense of being part of things, of being alive, of well-being and vitality. There is also a sense of being swept along by the force of God.”

Listen to what the Bible says about joy:

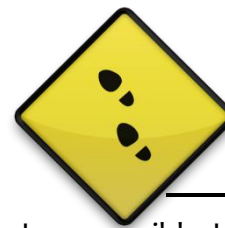
I Peter 1:8 (I love this verse) “*Though you have not seen him, you love him, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.*”

Inexpressible joy is what should describe our **spiritual journey**.

Jesus added this line in John 15:9-11. He said,

“*Remain in me, remain in my love, so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*”

That word “**complete**” is what separates joy from happiness. Happiness can never be complete and it just doesn’t last. But joy is a gift from God that settles into the middle of your soul when you are walking in relationship with Jesus Christ. It is a sense of being in the embrace of God in whatever circumstance you find yourself in life.



Sermon Notes

TAKING ONE STEP CLOSER TO CHRIST

Inexpressible Joy is a spiritual awareness that something wonderful has entered your soul

▶ **Real Joy is independent of our circumstances**

“So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.” Matthew 28:8

Can you remember a time when you were Surprised by Joy?

▶ **Joy that is shared is Joy that is multiplied**

“When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.” Luke 1:57-58

Share with someone what the Lord done for you this year!

▶ **Joy is a gift found only following Jesus**

“My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” Jn 15:11

How is your life more complete because of Jesus?

Finding Joy at Christmas

Relationships – “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...” Philippians 2:5 [serve and sacrifice]

Finances – There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward. K. Gibran

Tomorrow is gonna be OK -- “God showed His love among us” 1 John 4:9

NEW BEGINNINGS

Luke 1:39-56

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Mary's Song

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.