

## Introduction

When I was a child, there was a children's song that I heard called "The Joy In My Heart". It went like this:

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart  
Where? Down in my heart!  
Where? Down in my heart!  
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart  
Down in my heart to stay

And I'm so happy, so very happy  
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart  
Down in my heart  
And I'm so happy, so very happy  
I've got the love of Jesus in my heart.

There is a lot of truth in that song. Real joy is comes out of the heart. When a person is born again, Jesus comes into their heart. God seals us with His Holy Spirit and we become the temple of the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace... When you have Jesus in your heart your life should be characterized by love and joy. As I considered Christianity, I wanted proof that God exists and that He is real. What ultimately convinced me was I saw the love of Christ in a man that shared with me. Two of the most attractive characteristics of a Christian's life are love and joy.

When Karen and I traveled the tour, we occasionally visited churches when I was not playing or traveling on Sunday. I remember going to Liberty Church in Pensacola, Florida. It was Spirit-filled and joy was bursting out the seams in that place. One sailor, who was stationed there, invited us over for lunch after the service. There were other churches that we went to that we saw very little life at all. The churches that were full of joy and life attracted us far more than the ones that seemed lifeless.

When I met Karen at TCU, she was always laughing and full of joy. One of the nickname given to her by Bill Widmer, a man down the hall from me, was "I'm so excited." Karen was full of life and joy, and still is today. Joy is an attractive quality.

Many people have the perception that God is up in heaven with a big stick in His hand waiting to strike anyone who sins. There was a picture on the wall of one golf course that showed a man about to cheat by moving his ball away from a tree, and it also depicted God above shaking his finger at the man. That is the perception that many people have. However, the Bible tells us that in the presence of God is fullness of joy. The reason that there is fullness of joy in the presence of God is that He is full of joy.

(Ps 16:11) "You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever."

In Zephaniah 3, God told Israel to shout for joy. He told Israel to rejoice and exult with all her heart. He said that He had taken away His judgments against them and He was with them, and that He exults over them with joy. He rejoices over them with shouts of joy, or with singing.

(Zeph 3:14-17) “Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all *your* heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! {15} The LORD has taken away *His* judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more. {16} In that day it will be said to Jerusalem: "Do not be afraid, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall limp. {17} "The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.”

Jesus was full of joy. I think there were times that He wept, like when Lazarus had died and he saw how Mary and the others were grieving. But, Jesus was full of joy. Even when facing death, Jesus was full of joy. In Hebrews 12, we are told to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross.

(Heb 12:2) “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

In Luke 10, Jesus had sent out seventy disciples and when they returned, they were full of joy. Then, Luke records that Jesus rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit. We do not know if He sang, danced, shouted, or what. But His great joy was evidenced by the eyewitnesses that Luke interviewed when He wrote the gospel of Luke. God the Father is full of joy. Jesus was full of joy. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is joy. In the presence of God is fullness of joy.

(Luke 10:21) “At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.”

Our text today is 1 Thessalonians 5:16 and it commands us to “rejoice always.” God wants you and I to be full of joy all of the time. We are to rejoice always. It is God's will for you and I to rejoice always. There is something very attractive about a people that are full of joy and who also give thanks in everything. If a visitor comes into a church that is full of joy and thanksgiving, they will want to come back. Furthermore, they will want to find out where you get this joy and how they can get this joy.

(1 Thess 5:16-18) “Rejoice always; {17} pray without ceasing; {18} in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”

This morning we are going to look at the different types of joy, the priority of joy, the different levels of joy, and then look at some barriers of joy that we must overcome so that we can rejoice always.

### **God's Will Is to Rejoice Always**

1. Understand that there are different types of joy
2. Understand that there is a priority in our joy
3. Understand that there are different levels of joy
4. Understand that there are barriers to joy

## 1. Understand that there are different types of joy

### a. Joy in Family Relationships

There are many different types of joy that we find in the scriptures. For example, there is a joy when a woman gets pregnant. There is a joy when a baby is born. Luke records a prophecy about the birth of John the Baptist. The angel told Zacharias that he would have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at John's birth.

(Luke 1:14) "You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth."

In Proverbs 23:24, Solomon said that the father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who sires a wise son will be glad in him." In Proverbs 10:1, Solomon said the same thing, "A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother." In the New Testament, we find a similar thought, only it is speaking of spiritual children. The Apostle John said, "I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth." This is the joy of a parent seeing their children walk wisely and uprightly.

(Pr 23:24) "The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who sires a wise son will be glad in him."

(Pr 10:1) "The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish son is a grief to his mother."

(3 John 1:4) "I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth."

The Apostle Paul wrote something very similar to the church in Thessalonica. He said, "For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you...For you are our glory and joy." Paul had preached the gospel to them and they had become his spiritual children, and they were a joy to Paul.

(1 Thess 2:19-20) "For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? {20} For you are our glory and joy."

There is also a joy in marriage. Unfortunately, many marriages are not full of joy. Just as some children cause grief to their parents, some husbands and some wives bring grief to their spouse. But, God intended there to be joy in marriage. God tells us in Proverbs 5:18 that we are to rejoice in the wife of our youth. All of these different joys are family joys.

(Pr 5:18) "Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice in the wife of your youth."

### b. Joy in Victory

In Psalm 20:5, David wrote, "We will sing for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners." There is a joy in our victories and successes. When I played professional golf and had a poor finish, I would be the bearer of bad news to my parents. However, if I played well, Karen was the one that would share the joyful news. She would get more excited and display much more excitement than me.

When a team wins the World Series or the Super Bowl, there is usually a victory parade. The hometown celebrates with great joy. It does not have to be an athletic competition. When a company lands a big contract, the employees celebrate with great joy. When we get enrollments, we thank God for His provision, and we also rejoice over it.

(Ps 20:5) "We will sing for joy over your victory, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners. May the LORD fulfill all your petitions."

### **c. Joy in God's Word**

In Psalm 119:162, the psalmist wrote, "I rejoice at Your word, as one who finds great spoil." Similarly, in Jeremiah 15:16, Jeremiah wrote, "Thy words were found and I ate them, and Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Thy name, O Lord God of hosts." God's word is a joy to me. I pray this verse for people frequently. I want them to find joy and delight in God's word. When people rejoice at God's word more than one who finds great spoil, they will begin to spend time in the word, and it will rejoice their hearts.

(Ps 119:162) "I rejoice at Your word, as one who finds great spoil."

(Jer 15:16) "Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts."

(Ps 19:8) "The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes."

### **d. Joy in Ministry**

In Luke 10, Jesus sent out the seventy to preach the gospel, heal the sick and to cast out demons. The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord even the demons are subject to us in your name." They were full of joy about seeing people healed, saved, and delivered.

(Luke 10:17) "The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.'"

Paul rejoiced that Christ was being proclaimed. In Philippians 1, some people were preaching Christ and had wrong motives. Paul rejoiced that Christ was being proclaimed, even if it was being done with wrong motives.

(Phil 1:18) "What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice."

### **e. Joy in Salvation**

In Luke 10, there were three joys mentioned. There was joy in ministry, and Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit. The third joy was their salvation. Jesus responded to them saying He had watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning. But in verse twenty Jesus said, "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven." Jesus was talking about the joy of their salvation.

(Luke 10:18-20) "And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. {19} "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. {20} "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

David wrote about this in Psalm 51. He asked God to restore to him the joy of his salvation. In Psalm 95, David said, "O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation." There is tremendous joy in our salvation.

(Ps 51:12) "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit."

(Ps 95:1) "O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation."

The joy in salvation is also shared by others. In Luke 15, Jesus gave several parables to illustrate this joy. First, He spoke about a shepherd who had a hundred sheep and lost one of them. He went and found it, and when He found it, He rejoiced over it and called his friends and neighbors to rejoice with him.

(Luke 15:4-7) "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? {5} When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. {6} And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' {7} I tell you that in the same way, there will be *more* joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

Then, Jesus told about a woman who had ten silver coins and lost one of them. After searching for it, she found it. She called her friends and neighbors to rejoice with her about finding the lost coin. His point in both of these parables was to talk about the joy in heaven when a sinner repents and is found.

(Luke 15:8-10) "Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? {9} "When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!' {10} "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Then, in a much longer parable, known as the prodigal son, He told about a man who had two sons. The younger son wanted the father to divide the estate and give him his share of it. The father did it and the young man went off and squandered it with loose living. The son came to his senses and returned home and asked for forgiveness and to become a servant. The father ran to his son when he saw him in the distance and threw a party. He was full of joy over his son returning. The older brother was not too happy about it, but the father said, "But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and *has begun* to live, and *was* lost and has been found." The point of all of these parables was to talk about the joy of people receiving Christ. There is a joy in salvation, not only to the believer, but also to the angels in heaven.

(Luke 15:11-32) "And He said, 'A man had two sons. {12} The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. {13} And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. {14} Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. {15} So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. {16} And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving *anything* to him. {17} But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! {18} 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; {19} I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" {20} "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him*, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. {21} "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' {22} "But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; {23} and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; {24} for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate. {25} "Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. {26} "And he summoned one of the servants and *began* inquiring what these things could be. {27} "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.' {28} "But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and *began* pleading with him. {29} "But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and *yet* you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; {30} but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.' {31} "And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. {32} 'But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and *has begun* to live, and *was* lost and has been found.'"

The third joy in Luke 10 was the joy of the Holy Spirit. After telling the disciples to rejoice that their names were recorded in the book of life, Luke records that Jesus rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and Jesus rejoiced greatly in this joy. These are just a few of the joys. There is a joy in God's lovingkindness in Psalm 31:7. There are many joys that God gives us in life. However, there is also a priority in our joys.

(Luke 10:21) "At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight."

## 2. Understand that there is a priority in our joy

In Luke 10:20, we saw that Jesus told the disciples not to rejoice over the fact that the demons were subject to them, but to rejoice that their names were recorded in heaven. Jesus prioritized their joy. The joy of our salvation is to be a priority. There can be all kinds of trials in our life

going on, but we can have this inner joy because we are in a relationship with the Lord. We are to rejoice in the Lord. He is to be our chief joy and there is nothing that can rob us of that joy.

(Luke 10:20) “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”

In Matthew 13:44, Jesus gave two parables about finding this joy. First, he said that “the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” When someone finds Christ, there is a joy that surpasses everything else in his life. The second parable was about a merchant who found a pearl of great value. He went and sold all that he had and bought it.

(Matt 13:44) “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

(Matt 13:45-46) “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, {46} and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

The Apostle Paul is a great example of that. In Philippians 3:8 he said that he counted all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ. He said he suffered the loss of all things, but counted them as rubbish so that he could gain Christ. Paul was so overjoyed with finding Christ that all his past achievements were as rubbish.

(Phil 3:8) “More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,”

### 3. Understand that there are different levels of joy

In Philippians 2:2, Paul told the Philippians to make his joy complete by being of the same mind. Paul had joy, but it was not complete. There were some things that were preventing his joy from being complete.

(Phil 2:2) “make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.”

In Psalm 16:11, David said, “in Your presence is fullness of joy...” We see different levels of joy. We see a partial or incomplete joy in Paul that he wanted to be made complete. We see a partial joy outside the presence of God, but a fullness of joy in His presence. There are different levels of joy.

(Ps 16:11) “You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.”

### 4. Understand that there are barriers to joy

God wants there to be a complete and full joy in our lives. He wants us to rejoice always. However, sometimes barriers get put up that block our joy.

**a. Barrier of strife**

In Proverbs 21, Solomon said it was better to live in a corner of the attic (21:9) or in a desert land (21:19) than with a contentious woman. Where there is strife and contention, there is no joy. In Philippi, there were some barriers to Paul's joy being complete. They were not unified. There was some strife between two prominent ladies in the church. I don't know of anything that will rob us of our joy more than relational strife. If you have strife in your family, there will be very little joy in that family. If there is constant conflict in a marriage, that marriage will not have any joy. If you have strife and conflict on a sports team, they will not play together as a team, and they will not win. We have to resolve things and become of one mind so that there will be joy.

(Phil 1:27) "Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;"

So Paul addresses these things. He tells them in Philippians 1:27 to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel, and then he specifically tells them how. He wanted them to stand firm in one spirit, and with one mind to strive together for the faith of the gospel. In Philippians 2, Paul gives them some practical ways of becoming of one mind. He tells them to consider others as more important and to do nothing from selfishness. He told them not to look out for just their own interests, but also the interests of others. Paul wanted to bring about unity and he was dealing with selfishness and pride.

(Phil 2:3-4) "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; {4} do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

In Philippians 4, he specifically addresses the strife between these two prominent women. He urges Euodia and Syntyche to live in harmony, and then he asks the who church to help them get things worked out. Notice what Paul says after that. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice." We have to resolve strife and conflict in our relationships so that we can rejoice always.

(Phil 4:2-4) "I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. {3} Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. {4} Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"

The Philippians were not the only ones to struggle with strife and disunity. The church in Corinth had divisions and strife, so Paul's first letter to the Corinthians dealt with the various issues. If you are lacking joy and have strife and conflict, do not feel alone. But, do not allow it to go on unresolved. Do what the Apostle Paul did and address the strife. Take appropriate steps of action so that you can rejoice always.

**b. The barrier of Sin**

Another barrier to our ability to rejoice always is sin. In Lamentations 5, Jeremiah said that "the joy of our hearts has ceased, our dancing has been turned into mourning. The crown has fallen from our head; woe to us, for we have sinned." Jeremiah knew that their sins had robbed them of their joy. Sin is a barrier to our joy.

(Lam 5:15-16) "The joy of our hearts has ceased; Our dancing has been turned into mourning. {16} The crown has fallen from our head; Woe to us, for we have sinned! "

Paul said in Romans 14:17 that the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace and joy. There is a reason for that order. If there is sin, there will not be peace and joy. If we want peace, we need righteousness. If we want joy, we need righteousness and peace. We have to deal with the sin issues so that joy can be released.

(Rom 14:17) "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

The best example of this is found in Psalm 51. David had sinned by taking Bathsheba and then having Uriah put to death. Nathan confronted David and Psalm 51 is about his repentance of those sins. In the first few verses David is confessing his sins and asking God to forgive and cleanse him from his sins.

(Ps 51:1-4) "Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. {2} Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. {3} For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. {4} Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge."

After confessing his sins, David prayed, "Make me to hear joy and gladness." David's joy had left him and he desperately wants to have his joy and gladness restored. In verse fourteen, he prayed, "Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness."

(Ps 51:8-9, 14) "Make me to hear joy and gladness, let the bones which You have broken rejoice. {9} Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities....{14} Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness."

## Conclusion and Applications

The good news for us is that Jesus came to take away the sins of the world. He died and took our penalty for our sins. He made a new covenant with us and He gave us His righteousness and took our sins. He took away the guilt and shame and condemnation. He came as the Prince of Peace and reconciled us to the Father. He took away the sin and the strife and gave us righteousness and peace. He did this so that we could have fullness of joy. He did this so we can rejoice always. Look at Jude 1:24. It says, "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy." There is no one, other than that God, that can make us stand in His presence, blameless with great joy

(Jude 1:24) "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,"

As we close this morning, are you lacking the joy of your salvation? Is there something in your life that is robbing you of your joy? Is there a barrier to your ability to rejoice always? If that is you this morning, let me encourage you to deal with the issues. If it is strife and conflict, identify

the problem. If it is selfishness, like it often is, repent of the selfishness and learn to consider others as more important. If it is pride, humble yourself and have the same attitude that was in Christ. Let me encourage you, as Nathan did to David and Paul did with the various churches, repent of the sins and allow God to restore the joy of your salvation.

Perhaps this morning, you have never experienced that joy of knowing Christ. God wants you to have fullness of joy and to stand before Him blameless with great joy. Are you willing to take everything you have and sell it to buy that field where that pearl is? Are you willing to confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior. If you want that treasure, if you want that pearl, if you want God's joy to be released into your life, let me encourage you to pray and receive Christ into your life. The Bible says that we must believe that Jesus is the Christ and that He was raised from the dead, and that we must confess Him as Lord. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He came and died for our sins? Do you believe that God raised Him from the dead? If you do, and you would like to confess Jesus as your Lord, let me lead you in a prayer.

Father God, I confess that I have sinned and am separated from you. I ask You to forgive me of my sins and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I ask You to give me the joy of Your salvation. I ask You to bring me into Your presence, blameless with great joy. I confess that You are Lord, and I yield my life to You this morning. Come into my life and fill me with Your joy. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Introduction** (Ps 16:11, Zeph 3:14-17, Heb 12:2, Luke 10:21, 1 Thess 5:16-18)

**1. Understand that there are different types of joy**

- a. Joy in Family Relationships (Luke 1:14, Pr 23:24, Pr 10:1, 3 John 1:4, 1 Thess 2:19-20, Pr 5:18)
- b. Joy in Victory (Ps 20:5)
- c. Joy in God's Word (Ps 119:162, Jer 15:16, Ps 19:8)
- d. Joy in Ministry (Luke 10:17, Phil 1:18,
- e. Joy in Salvation (Luke 10:18-20, Ps 51:12, 95:1, Luke 15:4-7, 8-10, 11-32, Gal 5:22, Ps 31:7)

**2. Understand that there is a priority in our joy** (Luke 10:20, Matt 13:44, 45-46, Phil 3:8)

**3. Understand that there are different levels of joy** (Phil 2:2, Ps 16:11)

**4. Understand that there are barriers to joy**

- a. Barrier of strife (Phil 1:27, 2:3-4, 4:2-4)
- b. The barrier of Sin (Lam 5:15-16, Rom 14:17, Ps 51:1-4, 8-9, 14)

**Conclusion and Applications** (Jude 1:24)