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Joy: 3.2 Greatest Joy Luke 10:17-21; 3 John 1:1-4; Jude 1:24

INTRODUCTION

Throughout this teaching series, we have learned that the JOY of the LORD is everlasting, accessible and powerful. It is UNCOMMON because it can be experienced in any situation. We have also learned to apply the JOY of the LORD through abiding in Christ. Now as we endeavor to spread joy and learn of its benefits, we near the conclusion of this series learning to attain the **GREATEST JOY**.

REJOICING JESUS

In the Gospel of Luke 10:17-21 is the account Jesus' disciples returning from ministering throughout many cities in Capernaum. Verse 17 says, *"They returned with joy"*, because of the power demonstrated through the name of Jesus. Verse 21 says,

"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.""

This is the only recorded scene of Jesus openly praising God the Father. He rejoiced greatly because the Father had revealed powerful, eternal *truths* to His disciples. Jesus expressed great joy because what He possessed (truth, authority) had been *spread* to those who believed in Him.

NO GREATER JOY

In 3 John 1:4, the Apostle states, *"I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth."* Out of all the possible experiences in the Lord that provide UNCOMMON JOY, according to a man that walked with Jesus in the flesh, none was greater than knowing that those whom he had led to the Lord and *discipled* were not only heaven-bound, but **living out their faith in Christ** *daily.* Our GREATEST JOY can never be realized alone. To believe that it can is to miss the very heart of God; keeping all that He has blessed us with to ourselves. In the same way that a light is meant to shine, and a seed to be sown, so **the JOY of the Lord is meant to be spread.**

Don't settle for a measure of JOY. Love others as the Lord has loved you. Spread to others what He has given you. *Trust* in the power of the Holy Spirit and believe for the GREATEST JOY to be your way of life.

FACTORPOINT PRAYER

Father I thank You for the revelation of Your Word and the grace to receive it and walk in it. Lead me as I seek to lead others to Your truth and spread the UNCOMMON JOY of the LORD. By Your grace, **LEAD ME TO THE GREATEST JOY!**

