

Renewed Joy for Living¹

Series Part2

January 12, 2025

Scripture Text: John 15:9-13 ESV **9** As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. **12** “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command you.

VERSE 9 *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.*

Father, God's love sent Jesus into the world to redeem those who were sentenced to death and separated from His eternal presence. God's love has no beginning and no end. His love is close, personal, unchanging, and unmeasurable.

While we are loved by God, our sinful and rebellious nature prevents us from intimacy with God's holiness.

We know that Jesus loved His disciples by teaching, guiding, protecting, serving, and sacrificing Himself for them.

VERSE 10: *If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.*

Keeping an ongoing relationship with Jesus gives us access to His power, wisdom, truth, holiness, submission, devotion, sacrifice, forgiveness, and grace toward one another. Abiding in Him means our minds and lives will forever be transformed into His image. The Holy Spirit works within us to will and do what pleases God, not ourselves.

The goal is to be like Christ... nothing more and nothing less. **1 John 4:17 AMP** *In this [union and fellowship with Him], love is completed and perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment [with assurance and boldness to face Him]; because as He is, so are we in this world.*

VERSE 11 *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

When believers choose not to abide in Christ's love {not our inadequate love}, they will not feel the fullness of Jesus' Joy that He promises. It's miserable for a Christian to restrict your obedience to relationships that have no eternal value in preparing you to spend eternity with Christ.

There is a vast difference between Happiness and joy. People say, "I want to be happy in life." **Happiness is a bubbly, superficial, circumstantial feeling that comes and goes.** Joy is a deep-seated, lasting affection that endures. I genuinely believe that joy resonates with the soul.

Jesus Christ was sent to restore the ruins of the Fall of Humanity. He committed Himself to all people to receive His joy through relationships empowered by the Holy Spirit.

VERSE 12: *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

A commandment is without option, not up for discussion, not a mandate. If we are to have a relationship with the Lord, it is a life-and-death reality. **"Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son doesn't have life."** {**1 John 5:12 NLT**}.

Loving one another demands staying in a relationship with Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. When you say you are a Christian, you must conduct yourself as a reflection of Jesus Christ. Without yielding to the Holy Spirit, we will withhold the love that covers a multitude of sins.

VERSE 13 *Greater love has no one than this that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

The acid test of our love for one another... is our willingness to deny ourselves, be quick to forgive, and pray for God's will to be done in each other's life. There is no real love without sacrificing one's will to bless the other. If a weak brother is offended by you eating meat around them, then for the love of your brother, you will not eat in his presence.

The promotion comes from the Lord: **Psalms 75:6-7 NIV** *6 For exaltation comes neither from the east nor the west nor from the south. 7 But God is the Judge: He puts down one and exalts another.*

VERSE 14: *You are my friends if you do what I command you.*

When we are in an ongoing relationship with Christ, He shares with us the plans and desires of the Master because He knows our hearts. We desire to be like Him.

Applications:

The Joy that comes from the Lord will outlive Happiness.

The Joy that comes from the Lord enables us to endure afflictions with grace.