

CouplesInBloom.com – Very Exciting

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John 15:11 ⇨ “I have spoken *these things* to you that **My joy¹ may² abide³ in⁴** you, and **your joy may be full.**” *These things are what two-way relationship with God consists of* ⇨ John 15:1-8. The motivation here is to own the kind of intimacy with Jesus that He and His Father have ⇨ John 15:9-10. Beyond bringing answers to prayer ⇨ John 15:7, it is so very exciting becoming full of Jesus’ joy!!! **Understand this Scripture:**

¹ **My joy:** joy comes from what Jesus already did; happiness comes from what happens.

² **may:** whether joy happens is up to you; Jesus did all He could short of forcing you.

³ **abide:** whether joy stays is also up to you; Jesus will not leave, but you can leave Him.

⁴ **in:** literally refers to a process so expect it... somewhere between origin and destination.

Jesus’ joy is the one power that is greater than problems. Joy does not remove problems: it conquers them. God requires we exercise and experience His joy-power Jesus paid for.

Jesus said, “**Continue** in My love.” ⇨ John 15:9 shows **how to do that** ⇨ John 15:10-27. Joy is how Jesus endured the crucifixion ⇨ Hebrews 12:2 so it is certainly more than enough for your biggest problem, which is small in comparison ⇨ 2 Corinthians 4:15-18. “And now faith, hope, and love, these three things remain (**abide³**); but the greatest of these is love.” ⇨ 1 Corinthians 13:13. Understand how joy is **not** all about faith or hope:

- Faith is **belief with** support ⇨ Hebrews 11:1.
- Hope is **belief without** support ⇨ Romans 8:24.
- Love is **action without** support ⇨ literally *agape*: **initiates** love, feeds abundantly.

Love acts; faith and hope merely believe. “*Merely*”, you say?! “*I can’t even do that!*” Small faith can move mountains ⇨ Matthew 17:20, 21:21 and love is **greater** than faith ⇨ 1 Corinthians 13:13; **how** is love **greater**? Love, **without support, starts shoveling the mountain** ⇨ James 2:14-22: Faith + Works = Love (the greatest, greater than faith), love produces joy ⇨ Galatians 5:22, and **acting from faith in God produces fullness of joy**.

People with joy are people with shovels; they work. “The **joy** of the Lord is your **strength**.” ⇨ Nehemiah 8:10. **Joy** and **strength** connect! Jesus said, ‘You evil and lazy servant: why didn’t you **DO** something with the little I gave you?’ ⇨ Matthew 25:26-30. All of Matthew 25 ⇨ says what we do or *do not DO* defines eternity! Even my very old grandparents worked, being prayer warriors with (faith) muscle. Heaven waits for **DOers**.

This strong message is weak compared to the truth and reality it speaks of, and it is a privilege to hear it now while there is still time to act (or to improve acting) on it. “But *what if I am just too exhausted?*” you ask. 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 ⇨ is *literally* about how to “**superabound**” ⇨ verse 15, including **daily spiritual refreshing to overcome our human weakness** ⇨ verse 16. This is very practical and real help... especially as we grow older.

God energizes us, His Bride, *through our actions from our belief in Him*. This action-proven faith ⇨ James 2:14-22 *literally* “entirely gratifies” God ⇨ Hebrews 11:6. He also designed action-proven faith to “entirely gratify” our spouse on earth. **Actions** birthed from belief in one’s spouse are the love that makes marriage **very exciting**. Connectivity (**abiding³**) in intimacy is how fullness of joy comes, both with God and in marriage. ♥