

The Secret to Finding Joy
(Message for Water Baptism)

- *Among many other attributes, the following three words describe a follower of Jesus: thankfulness, contentment, and joy.*

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- *Thankfulness helps us to appreciate all the things God has done for us and given us.*
- *Thankfulness enables us to recognize and enjoy the blessings we have received and acknowledge the One who is the source of our many blessings.*

1 Timothy 6:6 (NKJV)

⁶Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

- *Contentment is the state of being satisfied and at peace in whatever situation we find ourselves. When we are content we are no longer controlled by the outward circumstances of life. We can have peace and satisfaction in whatever situation we face.*

Philippians 4:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

¹²I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

- *Godly contentment strengthens us to be free from the fickleness of life's events.*
- *Thankfulness helps to develop an atmosphere in our hearts where contentment and peace can flourish.*
- *While thankfulness is an expression of appreciation of what we have, and contentment is a state of peace and satisfaction with our circumstances, rejoicing is an expression of joy and exuberance.*
- *Philippians 4:4 reveals the source of our joy and shows us how to cultivate an atmosphere of joy in our hearts. "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"*
- *The source of true and enduring joy is rooted in God and in eternal things. "Rejoice in the Lord always."*
- *While thanksgiving can be expressed over both temporal and eternal blessings, biblical joy is always related to eternal things and the presence of God.*

- *Not everything we are thankful for will produce exuberant joy, but we will be thankful for everything that brings us joy.*
- *We may be thankful that last night we had a tasty dinner, but that isn't a source of joy today. However, I am just as joyful for my salvation today as I was the first day I received Jesus!*
- *“Rejoice in the Lord always.” This is the key to true joy. We are not to rejoice in success, or money, or health, but in the Lord! Everything else in life is fleeting and unpredictable.*

Luke 12:13–15 (NKJV)

¹³Then one from the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴But He said to him, “Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?”

¹⁵And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

- *Jesus’ response to the man says it all. “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”*
- *The Greek word for “rejoice” is used six times in the Gospel of Matthew.*

Matthew 2:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was.

¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

¹¹And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- *The first time joy is mentioned in Matthew is when the wise men found Jesus as a young child and fell down and worshiped Him.*
- *The first time we find true joy is when we find Jesus as our Lord and Saviour!*
- *“But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.” So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word. And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.” (Matthew 28:5-9).*

- *The last time that joy is mentioned in Matthew is in relationship to Jesus' resurrection.*
- *The presence of God brings us joy as we contemplate the reality of all Jesus has done for us—including His resurrection!*
- *The last time the Greek word for "rejoice" is used in the New Testament is in the context of spending eternity in unbroken fellowship with Christ!*

Revelation 19:7–9 (NKJV)

⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

⁸And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

⁹Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

2 Peter 1:12–13 (NKJV)

¹²For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

¹³Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

- *We need to stir up this joy daily. The way we stir up the joy of our salvation is to remember all that Christ has done for us! There is nothing more wonderful than to be loved by God and saved by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.*

Luke 10:17–20 (NKJV)

¹⁷Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

¹⁸And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

¹⁹Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

²⁰Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

- *Our joy is not to be in success, not even success in ministry. Our joy is that our names have been written in the Lamb's Book of Life! We are saved!!!!*

Luke 12:29–32 (NKJV)

²⁹"And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind.

³⁰For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.

³¹But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

³²"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

- *There is a special joy in putting Christ first and surrendering to the will of God. Our soul finds not only rest, but joy!*

Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

- *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.” The Great Commission as outlined in Matthew 28 is not evangelism, but discipleship.*
- *Evangelism is the first step in the Great Commission, but discipleship completes the picture and is the ultimate goal.*
- *Jesus Christ didn’t just die for our sins to save us from the penalty of sin, which is eternal damnation in Hell. He died so we could be freed from the power of sin and all the destructive habits and behaviours that would otherwise control our lives.*
- *Discipleship is learning to live a life submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, a life where we joyfully obey Him.*
- *People sometimes misunderstand God’s commandments and see them in a negative light.*
- *God’s commandments are protective, not restrictive.*
- *God’s Word is liberating, not limiting.*
- *To become a disciple is a process and a journey where we learn to be followers of Jesus. Instead of living a life filled with selfishness and self-will, we can submit to the will of God the Father, the Lordship of Christ, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.*
- *disciple means obeying God’s Word and following God’s ways.*
- *Therefore the first action Jesus instructed His disciples to take was, “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*
- *Becoming a disciple is a process, lived out one step at a time.*
- *Jesus didn’t say that those who receive Christ have to do some great feat of faith their very first day as a Christian, but simply fulfill one simple commandment—“be baptized.”*

- *Water baptism is the first step in learning to obey the Word of God.*
- *The next step of discipleship spoken by Jesus was, “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”*
- *The step following water baptism is simply learning all that Jesus has taught us in His Word one principle at a time, applying these truths to our lives, and growing in our faith by obeying His Word.*
- *Jesus concluded the Great Commission with these wonderful words of encouragement and comfort: “and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*
- *Our great comfort and joy is that He will never leave us nor forsake us. We can enjoy unbroken fellowship as we abide in His presence.*
- *The key for us to experience His presence continually is to learn to abide in Christ and to have His words abide in us. (John 15:7). The way we abide in Christ and have His words abide in us is through faith and obedience—discipleship.*
- *Water baptism is not simply a symbolic act. Because water baptism is the result of faith and obedience there is a release of grace in our lives.*
- *Every time we step out in faith and obedience we will find there is a release of grace in our lives to overcome sin and live a victorious life filled with joy and peace.*
- *When one takes water baptism it does not mean life will be easier or that we will have fewer trials. However, it does mean we have made a decision to walk in God’s ways and God honours our decision to be obedient.*
- *Although water baptism is not a ritual, it does have strong symbolism.*
- *Water baptism is symbolic of death, burial, and resurrection.*
- *Water baptism is symbolic of surrender as we allow another person to lower us into the water and raise us up. Our submission signifies our admission that we are powerless, and it is Christ who is raising us up by His grace and strength.*
- *Water baptism is a confession of three things:*
- *Past: I put my faith in Christ and I have died to my old sinful identity. I am born again and I am now a new creation in Christ.*
- *Present: I choose to die to myself daily and live for Christ.*
- *Future: One day this mortal body will die and I will be raised in an incorruptible immortal body.*

- *When we follow Jesus we can have the joy of knowing our lives will bring forth eternal fruit for Jesus!*
- *The ABC's of the Gospel:*
- *A – Admit you are a sinner*
- *B – Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ*
- *C – Confess Jesus as your Lord and Saviour*