

The Amazing Love of God results in Joy

Living in this world can teach us to have certain expectations. For example: **The world's definition of love is often based upon mushy, smoozie, warm and fuzzy feelings.**

Based upon this definition people fall in and out of love very quickly. We see something that affects our fleshly desires and boom we are in love... Thus the saying, "Love at first sight." **These same warm fuzzies ought not to be the basis by which we determine love. Biblical love is far different.**

The same is true with the word "JOY." **We read the word JOY in the Bible and using the world's definition for joy, we expect God to zap us with some kind of emotional high that catches on like wildfire.** One of the problems with this expectation is, when that emotional high wears off. With what are we left? Is this fleeting, momentary, most illusive emotional high the kind of joy that you have experienced up to this point in your life?

Consider the following: Jesus finishes telling His disciples some very important information in John 15:1-10. He then makes the following statement in verse 11, "*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*" What is this JOY that Jesus has, and wants His disciples to, not only share, but be made complete? **Biblical Joy (chara) is a matured sense of spiritual well being. It is not a feeling, it is an understanding.**

This does not completely disregard feelings. But just like with love, it puts the feelings in the right perspective. **Our feelings ought to come out of right understanding and right choices.** Little Johnny and little Billy were comparing their science project grades.

Little Johnny got a C+ and Little Billy got an A. Which of the two left the conversation with real joy? Consider the conversation:

Johnny: "I got a C+. And the best thing was, I did it all myself. How about you, Billy?"

Billy: "I got an A. But I just watched my daddy do it all."
Johnny had a joy that came from a matured sense of well being.

When we have wrong expectations, we can easily be misled or disappointed when the expectation does not occur. If we are expecting worldly joy from God, we are bound for disappointment. This is where faith fits into the picture. We must have a positive expectation (faith) of what Jesus has said He will accomplish in our life. As Jesus said, "I have told you this so that my joy will be in you and your joy will be complete." We should expect to have a Biblical Joy that lasts. It ought not go away. It ought to abide in you and become complete in you.

In order to have this joy complete in us we need to remain in Christ's love. We can do this by abiding in the Word of God and the Word abiding in us. As His Word abides in us, it will bring forth fruit. Galatians 5: 22,23 tell of the fruit that comes from the Spirit of God. **As we exhibit The Amazing Love of God toward others, the result is The Joy of the Lord.**