

**HWMR: THE ENJOYMENT OF CHRIST AND OUR GROWTH IN LIFE UNTO MATURITY
(Week 2)**

Scripture Reading: Rom. 15:13; 14:17; John 15:4, 11; Gal. 5:22

The Joy of the Triune God Becoming Our Joy

Romans 15:13	Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 14:17	For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
John 15:4	Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
John 15:11	These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.
Galatians 5:22	But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Day 1

<i>Romans 15:13</i>	- Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope in the power of the Holy Spirit.
<i>John 15:11</i>	- These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.

I. The Triune God is a **God of joy:**

- A. Romans 15:13 says, “Now the God of hope fill you with all **joy and peace**”:
 - 1. This indicates that **joy** is one of **God’s attributes**.
 - 2. God is the **God of enjoyment**.
 - 3. In our experience, if we enjoy **God as grace**, we will have **peace**, and if we have peace, we will have **joy**.
- B. Christ is also **joy to the believers**:
 - 1. In John 15:11 the Lord said, “These things I have spoken to you that **My joy** may be in you and that **your joy** may be **made full**.”
 - 2. The context of this verse is the Lord’s word concerning the **vine** and the **branches**.
 - 3. For us to be branches of the divine vine is a matter of joy—a **joyful life**.
 - 4. Our joy always comes from our **abiding in the Lord**, from our **abiding in His love**.
 - 5. It is in this kind of life that we are **full of joy**.
 - 6. This joy is **Christ Himself**; when He abides in us, His joy abides in us to be the source of our joy that our joy may abound and become full and that we may live our days with joy.

Day 2

<i>Romans 14:17</i>	- For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
<i>Galatians 5:22</i>	- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

C. There is **joy** in the **Holy Spirit**—Rom. 14:17:

1. God wants us to **enjoy Him** and **live for His purpose**—Neh. 8:10; Eph. 3:11.
2. The Triune God is a **God of joy**, and the apostles are fellow workers with the saints for their joy—Rom. 15:13; John 15:11; 17:13; Acts 13:52; Gal. 5:22; 2 Cor. 1:24; Phil. 1:25; 2:17-18.
3. We may experience the joy of the Lord's word **being in our heart**—Jer. 15:16.
4. A sweet thought revealed in the Word of God is that in Christ God has **given Himself to us as grace to be our enjoyment**—John 1:14, 16-17; 2 Cor. 13:14:

Another attribute of the Spirit is **joy**. Romans 14:17 says that the kingdom of God, which is the reality of the church life, is joy in the Holy Spirit. First Thessalonians 1:6 tells us that the believers “accepted the word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Spirit.” Furthermore, Galatians 5:22 indicates that joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

All people need joy. As Christians, **we have joy when we are filled with the love of God and the divine life**. Love comes from life, and joy comes from love. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of the divine life, the divine love, and the divine joy. The Holy Spirit is a **Spirit of joy**. Therefore, we may have joy in the Holy Spirit, a joy that is of the Spirit. If we cannot praise the Lord, we are defeated and are not in the Holy Spirit. But if we are in the Spirit, we shall be joyful with God and praise Him. (The Conclusion of the New Testament: God, Christ, and the Spirit, Volume 2, chapter 83)

Day 3

- Genesis 2:9** - *And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*
- John 1:16-17** - *For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and reality came through Jesus Christ.*

Day 4

- John 6:57** - *As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.*
- 1 Corinthians 10:4** - *And all drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of a spiritual rock which followed them, and the rock was Christ.*

- a. In the first reference in the Bible to God's relationship with man, God presents Himself to man as **food**; this shows that **God wants us to enjoy Him**—Gen. 2:7, 9; Psa. 16:11; Jer. 15:16.
- b. **God's desire** is to give Himself to us **to be our enjoyment**—Neh. 8:10.
- c. The secret to the Christian life is not how much we work for Him but how much we **absorb Him and enjoy Him**—John 15:4-5; Col. 2:6-7.

II. The joy of the Triune God is **becoming our joy**:

A. In His person **Christ is our joy**:

1. If we abide in the Lord and keep abiding in Him by abiding in His love, we will be **filled with joy**—John 15:10-11.

2. The Lord is recovering the matters that have been missed among most Christians, and **enjoying the Lord** is one of the most important of these matters—1 Pet. 1:8.
3. The matter of eating and enjoying the Lord is based on John 6:57.
4. The Christian living is a life of **eating, drinking, and enjoying** the Lord day by day—v. 57; 1 Cor. 10:4.

Romans 14:17 says, “*The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*” First Thessalonians 1:6 also tells us that the believers “*received the word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Spirit.*” These two verses show that the Holy Spirit is a **Spirit of joy**. Our inward, genuine love comes from the indwelling Spirit. The overcoming life that we live in the church today is the kingdom life, which is constituted of the **joy of the Holy Spirit** with righteousness and peace. If we are righteous and right toward others and toward God, we will have a peaceful relationship with others and with God. Thus, we will have joy in the Holy Spirit, proving that we are living in the reality of God’s kingdom and are under God’s rule and thereby have the practical church life. In Matthew 5, 6, and 7, in the decree of the constitution of the kingdom of the heavens and the portrayal of the nature of the people of the kingdom of the heavens, the Lord Jesus concluded with this word: “Rejoice and exult, for your reward is great in the heavens.” This tells us that **joy is an evidence of our living in the reality of the kingdom**.

We need to rejoice, but it does not mean that we wait for some pleasant things to happen for us to rejoice. The **indwelling Lord is the cause of our rejoicing**, and the Holy Spirit who moves within us is the motivation of our constant rejoicing. If we live in the fellowship of the Triune God and experience and enjoy the Spirit, we will have the joy that is brought to us by the Spirit. (*Truth Lessons, Level Two, Vol. 4, chapter 43*)

Day 5

Hebrews 4:12 - *For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Luke 1:46-47 - *And Mary said, My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has exulted in God my Savior;*

5. In order for us to be **faithful, normal, and proper Christians**, the primary matter that we need to take care of is **enjoying the Lord**; this needs to be a vision to us—Prov. 29:18; Acts 26:19.
6. Our **spirit** needs to take the lead in enjoying the Lord—Heb. 4:12:
 - a. We must learn to directly use our spirit and let the **soul be a follower of the spirit**.
 - b. Our spirit must **take the lead aggressively** in enjoying the Lord.
7. In His prayer to the Father, the Son said, “Now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world that they may have My joy made full in themselves”—John 17:13:
 - a. The fullness of joy is in the **real oneness**.
 - b. When we are one in the Father’s name by the Father’s life, enjoying the Father together, we will have the **Lord’s joy made full in us**—v. 13.
- B. In the church as the kingdom of the Son of God’s love, we experience and enjoy Christ in His **all-inclusiveness**—Col. 1:12-13, 27; 2:9, 16-17; 3:1, 4, 11:
 1. Christ is our **allotted portion**, our **good land**—the **divine inheritance** for our enjoyment—1:12.
 2. Christ is the **reality of every positive thing** in the universe—2:16-17.
 3. Christ is the **One sitting at the right hand of God**—3:1.
 4. Christ dwells in us as our **hope of glory**—1:27.
 5. Christ is our **life**—3:4.
 6. Christ is the **constituent of the one new man**—vv. 10-11.

Day 6

<i>1 Peter 1:8</i>	- Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory,
<i>Philippians 4:11</i>	- Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.

- C. According to 1 Peter 1:8, the believers “exult with joy that is **unspeakable** and **full of glory**”:
1. This joy is **immersed in the Lord as glory**; thus, it is full of the expression of the Lord.
 2. By believing into the Lord and loving Him, we **obtain great joy**.
 3. The normal condition of a Christian is to have **joy that is full of glory**.
- D. Enjoying the Lord has many aspects, such as the joy of the **Lord’s presence** (Psa. 16:11), the joy of **living in the divine romance** (S. S. 1:1-4), the joy of the **divine dispensing** of the Divine Trinity (2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 3:14-21), the joy of **drinking of the river of God’s pleasures** (Psa. 46:4a; 36:8b), the joy of **knowing God’s love** (Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:38-39), the joy of **doing God’s will** (Psa. 40:8a), the joy of **contentment** in all circumstances (Phil. 4:11), and **entering into the joy of the Lord in the kingdom** (Matt. 25:21, 23).
- E. A Christian should be a joyful person—**joyful in the Spirit**—Gal. 5:22:
1. The Lord is our joy when **we are in Him**—Rom. 14:17.
 2. When we are abiding in the Lord, no matter what problem we have, we are **joyful**, and any difficulty **deepens** our **joy in the Lord**—John 15:4.0
 3. The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of joy—Rom. 14:17:
 - a. If we are joyful, this indicates that the **Holy Spirit in us is also joyful**—Gal. 5:22.
 - b. There may be nothing in the outward environment to make us joyful, but the **Lord who lives in us is our joy**—Col. 1:27.

Christ is also joy to the believers. In John 15:11 the Lord said, “*These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.*” The context of this verse is the Lord’s word concerning the vine and the branches being an organism to glorify the Father by expressing the riches of the divine life. For us to be branches of the divine vine and to bear fruit to express the divine life is a matter of joy—a **joyful life**. If we abide in the Lord and keep abiding in Him by abiding in His love so that we may bear much fruit to express the riches of His life for the glorification of the Father, we will be filled with joy. **Our joy always comes from our abiding in the Lord**, from our abiding in His love, and from our fruit-bearing in His rich life for the glorification of the Father. It is in this kind of life that we are full of joy. Actually, this **joy is Christ Himself**. When He abides in us, His joy abides in us to be the source of our joy that our joy may abound and become full. (*Truth Lessons, Level Two, Vol. 3, chapter 32*)