



JOY

December 14, 2025

JOHN 15:8–11

SUNDAY REFRESHER

We all know joy, at least in flashes. A moment you wish you could bottle - a first step, a first kiss, a shared laugh, a successful hunt, a table surrounded by friends. But joy never stays as long as we want it to. It fades, slips through our fingers, and leaves us wondering why something so real feels so hard to hold. Jesus, however, speaks of a different kind of joy - not fragile, not fleeting, not dependent on the moment. In John 15, He offers His own joy to us, a joy rooted not in circumstances but in relationship.

Christian joy is not the denial of pain or the avoidance of sorrow. It is the deep, steady gladness that comes from being united to Christ - abiding in His love, trusting His work, and living within the reality that Christ has come, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again. This joy can coexist with grief, endure hardship, and remain unshaken because it is anchored in something stronger than emotion. Joy, as C.S. Lewis reminds us, is not the destination; it is the signpost. It points us to Christ Himself, the only place where joy becomes full and lasting.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

- *What did God say to you through this passage and teaching?*
- *Did God reveal anything new to you?*
- *How is this relevant in your journey to make disciples who Love God and Love people?*



QUESTIONS

- *Can you recall a moment of joy in your life that you wished you could relive or hold onto? What made that moment so meaningful?*
- *What do you tend to rely on for joy when life is going well, and how does that joy usually fade when circumstances change?*
- *How does understanding joy as something rooted in Christ - not circumstances - change the way you view suffering, loss, or unmet expectations?*

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

John 15:8–11 | 1 Peter 1:8–9 | Philippians 4:4 | James 1:2 | Philippians 2:8–9

CONCLUSION

Surrender your life to Christ. Place your faith in him.

Avoid: Shallow substitutes for lasting joy. Consumerism. (Choose experiences over things.) Numbing out or escaping with food, alcohol, or screens.

Contemplate: At the beginning of the day, through the day, at the end of each day, take inventory and ask, “Am I chasing the signpost or the reality it points to?”

Recite: “Christ has come. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.”

Memorize: These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. John 15:8–11

Pray: Jesus, keep me from looking to anything else for the fullness of joy that can be found only in you.

Read the Expedition Advent devotional.

