

**Glory to God: Proclaiming God's Goodness**  
**How to Give God Glory - Joy**  
**1 Chronicles 16:28-31; John 15:8-11**

**1 Chronicles 16:28-31**~ <sup>28</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! <sup>29</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; <sup>30</sup> tremble before him, all the earth; yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. <sup>31</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!”

**John 15:8-11**~ <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

I. Introduction

Today we will conclude a five part series on glorifying God. I hope this series has been edifying and challenging at the same time. I know that I have pour out a lot of information on this issue of glorifying God that can become overwhelming. But the time that you and I invest in cultivating a lifestyle that glorifies God would not be wasted time. It is something that we should do and must do.

Our main text is from 1 Chronicles 16 and verses 28-31.

**1 Chronicles 16:28-31**~

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{ ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

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{ bring an offering and come before him!  
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;

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yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.

{ <sup>31</sup> Let the heavens be glad,  
and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!”

From this Sacred Test, the Bible gives us three ways to glorify God.

1. First, we are to give glory by bringing an Offering to God (1 Chronicles 16:29).
2. Second, we are to give glory by Trembling before God (1 Chronicles 16:30).
3. Third, we are to give glory by Rejoicing before God (1 Chronicles 16:31).

A Christian is to be marked by joy ... to be glad ... to have great pleasure in God. It is how we glorify the Father. And this joy produces in us an innate desire to share with others the object of our love.

{ <sup>31</sup> Let the heavens be glad,  
and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

You see, when we have a joyous affection for someone, or something for that matter, we cannot help but to talk about it all the time, right? I know what makes you happy because you talk about it a lot. And you know what makes me joyous because I talk about it all the time. It consumes our mind. It fills our heart to overflowing that it spills out into our speech and our action.

One of our friends, actually Dawn's friend, recently had a baby. I am sure that baby gives her a great deal of joy in her life because that is all she talks about. Invite her over for dinner with a group of friends and that is all she wants to talk about, her baby. She dominates the conversation about her baby. We try to change the topic because not every guests of ours are interested in a prolong conversation about someone else kid, and somehow she is able to navigate the conversation back to her baby. Do you know what I am talking about?

Likewise, this year, Dawn and I received one of the greatest joys in our relationship ... Charlie came into our life. Dawn loves that dog. He brings her so much pleasure and joy. She goes to bed at night, thinking about Charlie, tucking him into his bed. She wakes up in the morning, and one of the first thing she talks about is Charlie. Every morning, she would communicate with me two repetitive words ... "Charlie, Charlie" as in, "before you do anything and start your day, take care of Charlie. Make sure you let him out." All of her friends know the name Charlie, probably more than the name of her husband.

You see, when someone or something fills our heart with joy overflowing, it will reflect in our speech, thoughts, and actions. And that is why joy is the third way we glorify God.

**We know we love God because our life is fill with joy for Him. And we know we are full of joy for Him because it is heard in our speech and seen in our attitude.**

{ <sup>31</sup> Let the heavens be glad,  
and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

## II. Three Thoughts On the Need For Joy

Let me give you three thoughts on why we need to have joy.

1. First, joy is needed to Glorify God. (1 Chronicles 16:31)

You and I cannot glorify God if we do not have joy in Him. Let me repeat that. You and I cannot glorify God if we do not have joy in Him. It is an impossibility.

Serving God must be done with joy. If we serve God without joy, we are not serving God. In other words, God takes no pleasure in our services for Him if it is done without gladness in our heart.

In Deuteronomy 28, God pronounced a curse on the children of Israel (Deuteronomy 28:45ff). The reason? Listen to the words of the Sacred Text:

**Deuteronomy 28:47~** <sup>47</sup> Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things,

Notice in Deuteronomy 28 that God gave the children of Israel an abundance of all things. He gave them land and livestock ... wealth and riches ... peace and security. He gave them an "abundance of all things", the Sacred Text stated. For what purpose? To use those abundances to serve Him. However, it is not the serving Him in and of itself that God desired. They must serve Him with "joyfulness" and "gladness of heart".

The result of not serving Him with joy? Listen to this curse.

**Deuteronomy 28:47-48~** <sup>47</sup> Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things,<sup>48</sup> therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything.

You hear the contrast? Let me give you the Long's Loose Rendering of this passage.

God was saying, "I see your service. I see you serving me. But why the gloom and doom? Why the complaining and criticizing? Look around you. I gave you everything in abundance for you to serve Me with joy and gladness of heart. But look at you. You look solemn in your service ... miserable in your ministry.

You know what? You want to be solemn ... you want to be miserable? I am going to give you over to your enemies, and you can serve them in your solemn and misery. And I will take everything away from you and give you nothing.

That is the Long's Loose Translation of those verses. You see, joy is needed to glorify God. Our services to God must be filled with joy and gladness of heart for God to take pleasure in our sacrifices. And if we take pleasure in our services to Him, He gives us more ... abundantly ... for us to rejoice in our service to Him.

How is your attitude when you serve God? Do you find yourself more joyful or more "jeerful"? Do you find yourself celebrating or complaining? The only way we can glorify God is if we do it with joy and gladness of heart.

2. Second, joy is the Will of God.

Not only does our joy glorify God, our joy is the will of God. He wants us to be joyful. He desires for us to have a gladness of heart. He commands us to be full of pleasure.

The Apostle John penned what Jesus taught them in John 15 and verse 8 to 11.

**John 15:8-11**~ <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

God would have us be full of joy. And after listening to Jesus' words, the Apostle John penned this statement in his letter to the Church in 1 John 1:4.

**1 John 1:4**~ <sup>4</sup>And these things we write to you that your<sup>1</sup> joy may be full. (NKJV)

Charles Spurgeon noted that God would have us rejoice ... "if it were not so, our text would not have been written." If God does not will of us to have gladness of heart, the Apostle John would not have penned these words in his gospel and in his letter.

The Apostle Paul also confirmed that gladness of heart is the will of God for us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**~ <sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

There it is. God's will for us. Three things.

- a. God's will is for us to rejoice.
- b. God's will is for us to pray.
- c. And God's will is for us to give thanks.

And I must reemphasize that to not rejoice in God is a sin because we rob Him of His glory and violate His will.

3. Third, joy is Infectious

Joy is infectious. Joy is contagious. When I led a House Church many years ago. There were two girls in this House Church that were a "comparison in contrast".

- One was also gloomy. The other was always glad.
- One always had a sour face. The other a radiant face.

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<sup>1</sup> The Textus Receptus manuscript has the word "your". The Alexandrian manuscript has the word "our".

- The gloomy one always had something negative to say about her life. There was also something to complain about. She would tell me her problem and asked me for my advice. Then she told me not to tell anyone. Then I heard her go around and tell everyone individually and asking for their advice. Her way to relate to people was to complain ... being negative.
- The other was also happy ... smiling ... laughing.

Guess who people like to hang around with?

There is no such thing as a grumpy Christian. Nobody wants to be around a gloomy person. I have so many problems in my life, I do not want to hang around with someone who is always gloomy and complaining and criticizing.

There is a place for constructive criticism for how can we improve ourselves if we do not critique. But not all the time. Some people love drama. They love to stir the pot. But normal people do not like to be around negative environment. Nobody wants to come to Church when believers are gloom and doom. Some churches are more like a funeral and a feast.

Oh, but when you have a church that is full of joy and gladness of heart. it is like a magnet that draws people to the Church.

### III. How Do I Rejoice

Knowing that God is glorify through my joy. Acknowledging that it is the will of God for me to rejoice. And understanding that the gladness of my heart is contagious, how can I cultivate the virtue of joy?

1. First, I rejoice when I Praise Him. (Psalm 71:23)

**Psalm 71:23~** <sup>23</sup> My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed.

You have problem being glad? Sing praises.

2. Second, I rejoice when I Reflect on my salvation with God. (Luke 10:20)

**Luke 10:20~** <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

3. Third, I rejoice when I Love my brothers and sisters. (John 15:8-12)

**John 15:8-11~** <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I

have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.  
<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Sometimes I feel that the reason why lack joy is because we have a certain jealousy or envy for our brothers and sisters.

#### IV. The Blessing

**Presider:** May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. May the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be unto you.

**Congregation:** And also to you.

#### V. Forgiven Life (Life Application)

Our joy is really a reflection of God's joy. The Bible does describe that God takes pleasure in many things, that He rejoices over certain things. Look at the following Scriptures and write down what makes God rejoice. Then reflect on if you rejoice over these things.

1. (Psalm 104:31) God rejoices in His \_\_\_\_\_

Do you rejoice in this way? How can you work on this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. (Deuteronomy 30:9; Jeremiah 32:41) God rejoices in \_\_\_\_\_

Do you rejoice in this way? How can you work on this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. (Proverbs 15:8) God rejoices in \_\_\_\_\_

Do you rejoice in this way? How can you work on this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. (1 Samuel 15:22) God rejoices in \_\_\_\_\_

Do you rejoice in this way? How can you work on this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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5. (Psalm 147:11; Zephaniah 3:17) God rejoices in \_\_\_\_\_

Do you rejoice in this way? How can you work on this? \_\_\_\_\_

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