

## Joy – The practice of Celebration



Word: John 15:9-12

*<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.*

### God Wants Us to Mirror His Joy

G. K. Chesterton wrote about children having such “abounding vitality” that they want to do, see, or hear the same things again and again and again.

Although the monotony of repetition nearly kills grown-ups, it thrills children. And Chesterton thinks it is possible that, like a child, God exults in monotony.

He writes in *Orthodoxy*: It is possible that God says every morning, “Do it again” to the sun; and every evening, “Do it again” to the moon. It

may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we.

In other words, many of us live as the joy-impaired children of a joy-infused God! So let’s see what God has to say about joy and how he wants it to influence our lives.

### Discussion:

1. What did you learn about joy today? In what ways might understanding more about the joy of the Lord affect your view of joy?
2. Are there any joys in life that you have been overlooking, or have overlooked?
3. What are some joys that you enjoy in life? When was the last time you’ve been able to enjoy that?
4. How will you practice the discipline of celebration (joy) this week?