

## **Wed night: Jan.16, 08 - Building Church Leaders**

### **How to keep the joy**

1. Choose to be optimistic, knowing your in God's will
2. Realize it's not what you do, it's what Christ did  
All I have to do is continue to run the race. If I keep running I will run into God's Glory to receive my crown. Be not weary in well doing because you will reap in due season.
3. Choose to be joyful  
I can choose to be joyful with a conscious decision each day and look at the bright side. There is a brighter day ahead. Joy is what you feel when your thankful.

### **How to Fight Ingratitude**

1. Refuse to let circumstances steal your joy  
Don't listen to the things of the world, people and circumstances control who you are and dictate how you should feel. Tell that enemy that comes that they can't have your joy.
2. Return to the grace of God  
God's grace is being in his favor. When you sin and don't confess your sins you are out of his favor. When this happens repent and ask God to forgive you for your sins. When we are out of His favor we block God's blessing in our lives.
3. Practice gratitude when you don't feel like it  
When you don't want to or feel like it, praise and thank Him anyway. When you feel this way thank Him with the heart of love and thank Him for what He's given you, your children, home, job, etc. Spend time in His presence.
4. Give yourself completely to God  
What does it mean to give yourself completely to God? It is giving your best to Him. Paul said that he strives daily to crucify his flesh. You must kill self and not think about what is in it for you. One way to tell if you have surrendered all is if you have surrendered your tithes to God. Are you robbing God? Do you know that God is first? You cannot surrender to God if you cannot surrender your tithes. That is the fastest way to loose your joy. You owe God. To pay Him is to be out of the curse.
5. Block satin in your mind  
The devil will come. His job is to be contrary to the will of God. He will try and tell you that you don't deserve what you have. You must say "Thank God for Grace" Be grateful in your spirit.

**What is most likely to steal your joy as you serve others?**

- Other people
- Ingratitude
- Hurtful words
- Bad attitude
- Lack of participation

You must understand what your doing in not to please others, you are doing it to please Christ. The reward comes in Heaven. If you work tirelessly serving others and have the right spirit your Father is faithful to not forget your service of love.

**What aspects of your Christian service are you grateful? How do they give you joy?**

Do you spend time in prayer? Is it a smile a hug? Joy in ministry must return to our hearts. We must stop looking at it as a responsibility or a job. Everything you do in church is ministry. God is going to reward us for ministry. Drop the phony stuff. Realize that you may be helping someone that could give you joy.

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