

Gifts of Grace

— Delighting in the Gifts of Grace —

LASTING JOY

John 15:9–11 (NLT) 9 “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. 11 I have told you these things so that you will be **filled with my joy**. Yes, your joy will **overflow**!

Christmas joy sustains us while we wait for Jesus with anticipation.

John 15:11 (NLT) I have told you these things so that you will be **filled with my joy**. Yes, your joy will **overflow**!

- There is gift for you, from Jesus —his overflowing joy.
 - His joy is an **attitude** to adopt for your wilderness & your waiting.

John 15:9–10 (NLT) 9 “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. **Remain in my love**. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, **just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love**.

- His joy flows to us by remaining in his love through obedience.

1 John 2:5–6 (NLT) 5 But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is **how we know we are living in him**. 6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

WHAT NOW?

☐ You can focus on a few commands:

1. Repent.

2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

2. Love one another.

John 14:34

3. Go and make disciples.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

1. What are your main sources of **joy**?
2. Jesus expressed joy in selflessly obeying His Father — even into his own execution (cross). How do you feel about the idea that his overflowing joy came from lovingly obeying his Father rather than by favorable circumstances?
3. Are there any examples you can think of where living more like Jesus might increase your **overflowing joy**?
 - a. — or maybe an example of how disobedience lead to unhappiness?
4. Which of these might be the best command for you to focus on?
 - a. Repent.
 - b. Love one another.
 - c. Go and make disciples.