# MARSHALL COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

"These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." - **John** 

Everyone loves to have a fresh start. Life is divided in a way that we all are given a fresh start everyday, every week, every month, and every New Year. From this comes a natural excitement of joy and great expectations for a new start. Oddly, by the time we go through another New Year, we are ready for another new start at the beginning of once again, another New Year. Once our New

Year's joy fades into our old routine as the year goes on, maybe we should consider that there is more to joy than time and happenings.

The world gives us the idea that joy is the absence of sorrow, tears, and pain. That is not the definition of joy. That is the description of heaven. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new" (Revelation

Joy is finding that comfort and confidence in God the Father's love for us, even in the middle of pain, problem, trials, and troubles. This may surprise you, but God is not interested in trying to remodel, renovate, or clean up our old ways at the beginning of a New Year and then start all over again the next year. The fact of the matter is that this world is scheduled for a wrecking ball. Nevertheless, many will try to patch up their bad attitudes, their bad habits, and be determined to have joy. However, the joy that remains is not

A New Joy!

self-achieved. In John chapter 15, the Lord Jesus Christ shared with His disciples about abiding in His love so as to experience the joy that Jesus Himself experiences with the Father. This joy is a spiritually satisfying joy that remains. This joy is different from happiness, because happiness involves a happening. Joy that comes from God is spiritual in nature and is a fresh new joy. This new joy lifts a person above one's circumstances. Christ labored in His life and in His teaching for us to enter into His joy. Christ has such a spiritual joy with the Father that

He desires to share it with His followers. That is why He encouraged them to abide in Him in order to receive the spiritual nutrition that they would need to experience His joy with the Father. Christ is the source of joy for all who abide in Him. This new joy has nothing to do with time or resolutions, but it is all about abiding in a relationship with God as our Father and Jesus Christ as our Elder Brother. This new joy continues past a New Year because it comes from God and remains forever!

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