**Sunday, 28 February 2021**

**The Importance of Joy in the Life of the Christian**

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 14:17 – "For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." God's joy is an indispensable part of the Christian life. Fulfillment in this life is not accomplished by the pursuit of things – but is the result of a life that is controlled and motivated by joy. God's joy in us strengthens us in times of challenge, produces health in our bodies, and eliminates sadness and depression from our lives.

1. The new life God has given every believer includes the ability to have joy. How does that happen? Romans 14:17, Romans 6:4
2. How do we allow this joy to dominate us? Ephesians 4:24, Romans 12:2, Proverbs 4:23, James 1:2
3. Joy produces health and healing - Nehemiah 8:10, Luke 8:13, Proverbs 17:22, Proverbs 15:13

Conclusion: Make a decision today to allow God's Word to dominate your thoughts. When God's thoughts control your thinking, your words and actions will change. When your words and actions change, your feelings will change, and you will begin to experience a life empowered by God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the scripture in Ephesians 3:4 mean? How can we apply that to our Christian life?
2. James 1:2 instructs us to "count it all joy" when we experience difficulties in life. What does that mean, and how can we apply it to our lives?
3. Discuss three ways a life dominated by God’s joy will affect how we live our Christian life.