

Where is Joy?

My wife is blessed with a wonderful sense of adventure. She looks around and wonders which direction is which, so every turn is a wonderful adventure. I told her I'd install a compass in her car, but she said that unless it had "HOME" written on the compass card it would be useless to her.

Then our wonderful friends at the Garmin company invented a GPS with streets on it and you can actually program it for "HOME!" She bought one when she graduated from real estate school and passed her exam. Now she can find our home and everyone else's home! *She knows where it is!*

Unfortunately, no one has invented an electronic marvel that tells us where joy is. Maybe that's why so many people have trouble finding it!

Thankfully God tells us where joy is and how to find it. In John 15:11 Jesus says, "I tell you these things so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be made full." Wow... not only joy, but full joy can be found. Literally, joy is found in Jesus and His joy can be transferred from Him into us! It's that simple.

Yes, there are a few details, but they are not complicated. A well-known old song brings the overall plan into brilliant focus, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

To trust, we must have faith, that is believe that He is and that he is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). True faith leads to trust and that leads true believers to obey. An amazing thing happens at this point - God, Himself, gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. We find these words in Acts 5:12: **"the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."**

When we trust and obey, we become closer and closer to God. The closer we are to God the more of Jesus' joy can make us full of joy also! God's word walks down the incredible road of joy where He brings us to point where we can, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice."

Ray Wallace