

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE**  
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**“JOHN WROTE TO PROMOTE JOY”**  
**Series #4 - Confident Christianity**

**1 John 1:1-10**

Thus far we have learned that the purpose of why John wrote this general epistle was to correct false teaching and heresy that had gotten into the church. That false teaching was called Gnosticism which taught that Jesus didn't really die or rise from the dead. Gnosticism, which got its name from the word “knowledge” in Greek, also taught that only those who had special knowledge could be saved. We have learned that Christianity is fact, not fiction. Our faith is not built upon a fable but is rather rooted in the facts of history. Jesus Christ was a historical figure and invites investigation. We see this in **1 John 1:1**. So in Vs. 1-2 John desires that we know who Jesus really was and he wants you to know He is Eternally Real. The eternal God became flesh and lived among us here on earth. Last Sunday we learned that John wrote this book to **Present** to us that God wants us to **FELLOWSHIP** with HIM and with one another Vs.3, 5-7. Today we are going to learn that another reason that John wrote this letter was **TO PROMOTE JOY**, look at V-4.

**What is joy?** Joy is not the emotional feeling of delight. The most revealing verse in defining Joy is **Hebrews 12:2**. "...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." We know that joy comes from knowledge, and that is why John is writing these things. We know joy is not based upon circumstances because Jesus saw the joy despite the cross and shame of His circumstances. Therefore, part of our joy comes from knowing the truth.

Now we need to understand that:

- Joy is an attitude, not a condition.
- Joy is a choice.
- Joy should not be confused with happiness, which is based on what is happening in our lives and the world around us. Joy on the other hand has to do with relationships with those around us. Joy therefore is not centered on physical aspects, achievements, or possessions.
- Joy is not Positive Self Talk

**Now what are The Joy Killers:**

**1. Criticism (People)**

- Ever notice that when your cup of JOY is full, somebody always jogs your elbow?

**2. Worry** - “Things that may never happened!”

**3. Fear.** - "dreadful uneasiness over danger, evil, or pain." (And it magnifies our problems.)

**4. Stress** - intense strain over a situation we can't change or control

**5. Going nonstop until you drop**

**6. Sins if we tolerate them**

As I have already said Joy, is not the same as happiness. Happiness depends upon what happens; **joy wells up from within and is one of the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22)**. Now it was our Lord's desire for His own that they have glad hearts. This was one of His goals in instructing them, “*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*” (**John 15:11**). Joy is a commanded. Joy is expected. It is not the exception.

“*These things*” in our Lord's words in **John 15:11** are the same things as “*these things*” in John's statement in **1 John 1:4**, only expressed differently. In the former it is stated in terms of abiding and obeying, in the latter in terms of fellowshiping. The religion of Christianity is one of joy because it is one of fellowship with Christ, in whose “presence is fulness of joy” (**Psalms 16:11**). Joy is the blessed fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22**). Nothing was more characteristic of the first Christians than the fullness of joy, a joy which is not given to the ungodly. It is of such a nature that it cannot be lost in the darkest hour.

There are five steps that will always lead to JOY, and they are:

**1. Fear not**—He is with you - **Isaiah 41:10**

**2. Fret not**—He loves you - **Psalms 127:2**

**3. Forget not**—He remembers you - **2 Chronicles 15:2**

**4. Forsake not**—He teaches you - **Proverbs 4:2**

**5. Faint not**—He strengthens you - **2 Corinthians 4:16**

**J – Jesus First**

**O – Others Second**

**Y – Yourself last**

**Count Your Blessings: Psalms 68:19, 1 Thessalonians 5:18**