

Complete Joy
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There are many things that bring me joy. My grandson sitting on my lap on Saturday morning watching his television shows and eating his chocolate sprinkle donut. Sitting outside in the morning reading my daily Bible readings and devotions with our newly adopted dog, Paul Bunyan. My favorite college football team winning the NCAA Championship (Go Blue!) last season. But as I reflect on these joys, they are all temporary. My grandson is now too old to sit on Papa's lap and would rather steal Papa's chair. The weather will soon turn too cold to sit outside in the morning. And it looks like the University of Michigan Wolverines are in a rebuilding year.

Father God has an eternal joy prepared for us and Jesus is the source of this eternal joy. **“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”** **John 15:9-11.** The Holy Spirit empowers us to abide in Jesus' love. We abide in His love through “a hidden act of repentance, a little gesture of selfless love, a moment of true forgiveness.” (Henri Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*)

The Lord's Supper offers us a glimpse of the joy to come. Through this intimate meal we are granted forgiveness of all our sins. We rejoice in this meal as it is a foretaste of the things to come. The ultimate feast comes when we will rejoice at the heavenly wedding feast. **“For our Lord Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has begun. Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!”** **Revelation 19:6-9**

We experience many joys throughout our lifetime and a greater joy waits for us. The banquet is prepared. The invitations have been sent. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!