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Joy: How to Have Joy Without Limit **Jon Rychener**

2 Corinthians 7:4 (NIV): ...in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.

Three Relational Keys that Lead to Limitless Joy

Key #1: Run with People Who Are Running Towards Jesus

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV): Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 (NIV): Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

Attraction can be the start of relationship, but it can't be the heart of the relationship.

Key #2: Keep Your Heart Open to Others

2 Corinthians 7:2-3 (NIV): Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have exploited no one. I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you.

Paul's History with the Corinthian Church

-  Paul plants the church in Corinth (Acts 18, about AD 50–52)
-  Problems arise in the church
-  Paul sends Timothy to help (1 Corinthians 4:17)
-  Paul writes 1 Corinthians
-  Problems get worse
-  Paul's "painful visit" to confront the problems head on (2 Corinthians 2:1)
-  Paul writes a "severe letter," written "with many tears." We don't have it, but he mentions it (2 Corinthians 2:3–4; 7:8)
-  Titus brings good news: the problem has been resolved (2 Corinthians 7:6–7)
-  Paul writes 2 Corinthians

We can only forgive from the heart because we have been forgiven from the heart, and that cost Jesus everything.

How to Forgive from the Heart

A: Name the Hurt

Category A – Absence

Category B – Bad

B: Extend Compassion

C: Forgive the Person

D: Bless the Person

Key #3: Invest in Relationships with Joy Bringers

2 Corinthians 7:4 (NIV): I have spoken to you with great frankness; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.

2 Corinthians 7:5-7 (NIV): For when we came into Macedonia, we had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within. But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.

Some people bring joy wherever they go, others bring joy when they go. –Gordon MacDonald

Who is a Titus in your life?