

# Joy in the Return

Luke 15  
John 17:13-21

A scenic landscape featuring rolling green hills under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a paved asphalt road with white lane markings curves through the scene. To the right of the road, a green sign with white text reads "Your Country". The background shows layers of hills, some with sparse trees, and a few wooden structures on a grassy slope. The overall atmosphere is bright and peaceful.

**Your Country**

# What Does Joy Mean To...

- Missing Brethren
- The Outsider



**Open Your Bibles to  
John 17:13-21**

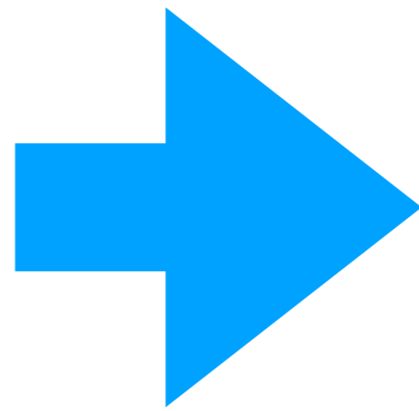
# Joy & Them

- Jesus wants to share His joy with His disciples. This includes the ones that have left or yet to come to Him.
  - Jesus' words bring joy.
  - Jesus' joy can be made full/fulfilled (πληρώω).
  - Joy comes from God's protection and provision.
  - Joy comes from unity with other Christians and unity with the Father and Jesus.
  - Joy can be found in God's provisions of protection, unity, fellowship, and assurance in holiness.
- Seek to share joy with them.
  - Focus on what Jesus has to say.
  - Seek to find highlight the things both Jesus did for us and also found joy in.
  - Talk about how God has taken care of and provided for us lately. Try to get them thinking about God's blessings for them.
  - Let them know repentance and unity is possible.
  - Highlight the joy found in God's provisions of protection, unity, fellowship, and assurance in holiness.

**Turn in Your Bibles to  
Luke 15:4-10**

# Joy in Finding Faith

- Faith can be absentmindedly left.
- Faith can be neglected to the point of leaving.
- We must be willing to do an occasional (and honest) “spiritual inventory.”



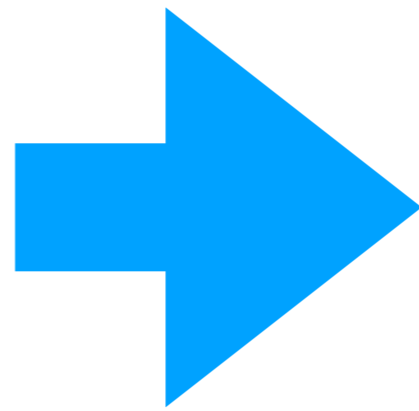
- Joy came from a successful search.
- Joy leads to wanting to share good news with others. We don't want to keep it to ourselves.
- Success breeds success!
- Repentance produces Heavenly joy.

**What about those who  
intentionally walk away?**

**Consider “The  
Prodigal Son”**

# Joy in Finding Faith

- Faith can be intentionally left for a number of reasons.
- This person will not often return unless they hit “rock bottom.”
- If they return, God welcomes them back with open arms.
- Change came from humility and realizing the Father’s goodness.
- Repentance produces Heavenly celebration.
- Unfortunately not all Christians find joy in someone returning to God.





# What About Us?

- Do we seek to share God's joy with the missing brethren and the outsiders?
- Do we let them know God wants them back?
- Do we highlight what God has done through Jesus with others?
- Do we find joy in someone returning to God and His church regardless of why they left?
- Do we share in God's mission and seek to turn someone "who strays from the truth from the error of his ways?" (James 5:19-20)



Christ's Church in Rock Springs  
grow in respect to salvation.