

*Joy Without Limits :*  
*The Joy of Dependence*  
**GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
*Sermon by Ray Reynolds*

Text : Romans 8:31-39

Introduction: We are studying a series of lessons on the subject of joy. We know that Jesus commanded His disciples to be joyful. **John 15:11** says, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." What makes independence and freedom desirable? God has given us so many freedoms and blessed us in America with independence. But are we supposed to follow democracy or theocracy? God really wants us to learn how to be more dependent, not independent. Do you depend on Him? Let's study together . . . .

Discussion:

***I. God Is Competent***

- Moses knew God could fight battles (**Exodus 14:13-14**).
- Nehemiah knew God could fight battles (**Nehemiah 4:20**).
- Jesus knew God could fight battles (**John 12:50**).
- Peter knew God could fight battles (**Acts 12:5-7**).
- Paul knew God could fight battles (**Acts 18:14-15**).

***II. God Is Confident***

- He tells us to have faith (**Psalms 5:11**).
- He tells us to be prepared (**Ephesians 5:15**).
- He tells us to take action (**Ephesians 6:11**).
- He tells us to face our enemy (**I Corinthians 16:13**).
- He tells us to forget our problems (**Philippians 4:6-7**).

***III. God Is Consistent***

- The Lord provides success (**Hebrews 11**).
- The Lord provides salvation (**Psalms 9:13-14**).
- The Lord provides stability (**Matthew 28:20**).
- The Lord provides security (**Hebrews 13:5**).
- The Lord provides strength (**Romans 8:31**).

Conclusion: Don't ever give up on God. We need to learn to trust in Him. He knows what's best for our life. Let's become less independent and more dependent! Give God control of your life!