

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

Text : Acts 4:13

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.*” Did you know that growing up can be a source of joy? Growing pains are part of God’s spiritual process. Each step we take leads us closer to the image of our Creator. Each change transforms us more into Christ’s image. And each blessing gives us comfort in the Spirit. Let’s consider how one Bible character went from a fisherman to a fisher of men

Discussion:

I. Peter Experienced Maturity

- Peter, the faithful fisherman (**John 1:42**)
- Peter, the reckless rock (**Matthew 14:30**)
- Peter, the denying disciple (**Luke 22:54-62**)
- Peter, the purposeful preacher (**Acts 5:41**)
- Peter, the soft-spoken shepherd (**I & II Peter**)

II. Peter Taught Maturity

- Growth will lead you to joy (**I Peter 1:8, 4:13**)
- Growth will lead you to comfort (**I Peter 1:6**)
- Growth will lead you to nourishment (**I Peter 1:8**)
- Growth will lead you to blessings (**I Peter 3:8-9**)
- Growth will lead you to leadership (**I Peter 5:1-11**)

III. You Can Discover Joy Through Maturity

- Maturity helps us to deal with trials (**James 1:2-3**)
- Maturity helps us to grow in faith (**Matthew 18:10**)
- Maturity helps us to get to heaven (**I Corinthians 13:1-13**)

IV. You Can Teach Others About Maturity

- The Lord tests us (**Psalms 11:4-5**)
- The Lord refines us (**Psalms 66:10**)
- The Lord saves us (**Psalms 119:67**)

Conclusion: God never intended on us becoming mature Christians overnight. It’s a long and painful process to become a steadfast believer. Are you willing to pursue maturity? Will you allow God to have control of your life? Remember He is the potter and we are the clay! God is not finished with you yet!