

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

Text : Hebrews 12:5-6

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.*” But what happens when we face the wrath of God? What happens when we make mistakes? Christians should improve when God disciplines us. How does He discipline us? What can we learn? Let’s study together . . . .

Discussion:

***I. Verbal Discipline***

- The Power of the Tongue (**James 3:1-2**)
- The Potential of the Tongue (**James 3:3-6**)
- The Problem of the Tongue (**James 3:7-8**)
- The Possibilities of the Tongue (**James 3:9-12**)

***II. Moral Discipline***

- Christians Should Cultivate Morality (**Galatians 5:17**)
- Christians Should Consider Morality (**I Corinthians 10:13**)
- Christians Should Control Morality (**I Corinthians 9:27**)
- Christians Should Commend Morality (**Proverbs 6:6-11**)

***III. Spiritual Discipline***

- Self-Control Reflects the Spirit of God (**Galatians 5:23**)
- Self-Control Reveals Spiritual Maturity (**II Peter 1:6**)
- Self-Control Resembles Spiritual Leadership (**I Timothy 3**)
- Self-Control Regulates Spiritual Strength (**Proverbs 16:32**)

Conclusion: Clearly God understands life. He created it. And He understands us. He created us. As a loving father corrects his children, our loving Father corrects us (**Hebrews 12:5-6**). Each child of God should drink from the well of joy! But we have to be disciplined in order to better appreciate God’s blessings. A disciplined life not only brings joy, it also opens doors to new horizons. God may not be punishing you for mistakes you have made, but instead He could be providing greater blessings for you to use in His service. What will you choose? Don’t curse God. Bless Him. Don’t give up on God. Join Him. He knows what’s best for your life. So give Him control!!!