

- **YOUR MAY~ 2017HUG-IN-A MUG** from Pat Reck, Leader Development



OUR GREAT JOY

*John 16: 22 says: So with you...I will see you again, and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your **JOY.***

JOY IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH HAPPINESS, HOWEVER, WHICH MAY OFTEN BE THE PRODUCT OF A MOOD OR MOMENT. OR DEPEND ON OTHERS.....

OUR JOY COMES FROM OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, THE FATHER!

JOHN 17: 1~26 is known as "The High Priestly Prayer."

It is the "red letter edition" as Christ spoke to his disciples and lifted his eyes to heaven. The first segment, v. 1~5, speaks to the saving relationship of Jesus to God; v. 6-19 of Jesus to his disciples, and v. 20~26 to all believers, past, present and future. It is that precious relationship and His hope and prayers and plan for us that we wish to focus on.

This past Spring, one of my favorite sermons really stuck with me...Luke 24:13-35, the men "On the Road to Emmaus." And I tried to imagine what it would have been like to be joined on the road by the Christ himself? And be kept from recognizing him? To discuss and hear him speak the Scripture and feel my heart burning inside me as He talked and opened the Scriptures to me! And then...disappear!! TRUTH: He has never disappeared to us, nor failed us in His desire and plans for us. And with that strength and promise, we step out in faith.

We must not be slow to hear and understand. In these tough times we must be vigilant and ready. But our job now, as for Pastors and all Leaders, is to lead, equip, pray for and engage our dear sisters in Christ over this "summer break" upon us. Summer salad picnics, book groups, simple hikes, joint event with another congregation, try a "girls nightout at a decent movie," any great idea that lets women know **how precious is that "building relationships"** with them. And special prayers for those preparing to represent the Oregon District in Albuquerque. Thank the Lord and praise His name...tell everyone what He has done.

Blessings, Pat