

The Joy of the Lord

Introduction

- A. God has not only provided for and promised forgiveness, righteousness, wisdom and strength – He has also promised to give us His joy.

For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Rom 5:10,11

- B. The joy of the Lord is more than being contented with life. It is a joy in the Lord Himself – enjoying God – His presence – His Word – and His grace. It is His will for us!

I. The Joy of the Lord is Based on a Personal Relationship with Jesus Christ.

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. John 15:11

Comment: The Lord Jesus was teaching the Disciples about their relationship with Himself. A practice of that relationship will manifest itself in His joy.

II. The Joy of the Lord is Supposed to Accompany our Prayer Life.

Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. John 16:24

Comment: Christianity has been designed to work. One of the most valuable areas of life is prayer. For too many of us prayer is rather dull. The reason is largely found in a lack of receiving His love and grace – as a branch in the vine, and disobedience.

III. The Joy of the Lord is so Important the Savior Prayed We would Have It.

I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. John 17:13

Comment: The Lord Jesus knew that no Christian could make a success out of life without His joy. To know and do His will – with His joy – is an unbeatable combination.

IV. The Joy of the Lord is a Characteristic of a True Christian.

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Rom 14:17

Comment: Christianity starts on the inside and works out. We all had His joy at the beginning of our Christian life – but most of us lost it through error and disobedience.

V. The Joy of the Lord is that which finds its Source in God and His Grace.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom 15:13

Comment: God seeks to fill us with His joy. The Holy Spirit is our daily Helper – and our part is to trust Him – the obedience of faith.

VI. The Joy of the Lord is Described as the Fruit of the Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Gal 5:22,23

Comment: These nine virtues are the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit. The first three describe our experience in daily life. The second triad our relationship with people and the last three indicate the character God desires for us. Can we profess to be filled with the Spirit if we do not have these virtues to some degree?

VII. The Joy of the Lord can be a Part of our Life During Times of Trial.

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. 1 Peter 1:8

Comment: Peter explains that believing God in trials enables us to have a joy that we cannot explain. It's a joy of knowing God is in control and experiencing His grace and power.

VIII. The Joy of the Lord Accompanies a Knowledge and Practice of the Bible.

And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. 1 John 1:4 KJV

Comment: By using the blueprint of the Bible in our daily life – by faith, love and hope – we can experience the joy of the Lord as a by-product.

Conclusion: What are we to do if we do not experience the joy of the Lord?

- A. Make sure you have cleaned up the past and want the will of God.
- B. Reject what you may have in the place of the joy of the Lord – bitterness, grudges, fantasy, a controlling sin, unforgiveness, self-centeredness, manipulation, fear, etc.
- C. Believe the truth that God has given you His joy.
- D. Practice His joy by faith even though you do not “feel” it at first. This is not pretending but a practice of truth – as we do regarding the assurance of salvation.
- E. Take time each day to deliberately receive His love. Invite Him into all the facets of your life. Take time to worship Him – read His Word – and choose to trust Him.

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