How to have real JOY in your life

(Selected Scriptures)
11/13/94

*** You can have Fullness of Joy in your life!**

Realize 3 truths about JOY

I. The SOURCE of JOY is GOD (Psalm 16:11) (The reservoir of joy)

"And (they) kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with Joy: for the LORD had made them joyful" (Ezra 6:22)

II. The CHANNEL of JOY is FAITH (Philippians 4:4) (The pipeline of joy)

"Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice" (Ps.32:11; Hab.3:18)

A. By Faith, Rejoice in the Lord (Phil.4:4)

B. By Faith, Rejoice in the Lord's Salvation (Luke 10:20)

C. By Faith, Rejoice in the Lord's Promises (Rom. 15:13; I Pet.1:8)

D. By Faith, Rejoice in the Lord's Goodness

1. Count your blessings and meditate on all that God has done for you.

2. Consider your trials & troubles as being occasions for growth (James 1:2-4)

III. The MEANS of JOY is OBEDIENCE (The faucet of joy)

A. Obey the Spirit's daily proddings to do what you know is right (Gal. 5:22; Prov.21:15; John 13:17; I Jn.1:3-4)

B. Spend time everyday in the Lord's presence by having a daily "quiet time" alone with God. (Psalm 16:11)

C. Make it your goal to live for others and not yourself; (Seek to give joy rather than get it) (Phil.2:17)

Jesus
Others
You

D. Guard what you allow to come out of your mouth (Prov.15:23)

E. Sow the seed of God's Word with a burdened heart to the lost souls the Lord has put in your path (Ps.126:5)

F. Be content with what God has given you rather than coveting what others have (Heb.13:5; I Tim.6:8)

Diagram:

Concl. The result of Joy is singing - *"Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart"* (Is.65:14)

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Illus: of being invited to someone's house for dinner and leaving hungry.

"Fullness" = to be satiated; filled up to the brim; to have in abundance.

"Joy" = gladness, rejoicing.

"In thy presence" = why don't men seek God's face; or desire His presence?

Because of sin (EX. Gen. 3:8-10 - "Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden." Men have been hiding ever since because of a love for "darkness rather than light . . ." (Jn. 1)

1) We need to pray - full joy is received by those who draw close to God (Ja. 1).

2) We need to "practice the presence of God." Full joy is received by those who "practice His presence"

(READ Ps. 139 - God knows all!)

We can't escape God's presence, yet we live sometimes as if He were not around.

EX. talking on the phone brings joy; but seeing face to face brings real, fullness of joy!

The most lonely time in history must have been when Christ was separated from and forsaken by the Father (Mt. 27:46) as He was bearing the sin of the world.

His pleasures never run out - never exhaustible

Why are riches at God's right hand? Because this is where Christ is! Christ is the source of all our spiritual riches (Eph. 2:7 - "That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.")

"For evermore" = endlessly, eternally.

Our God is a God who gives and gives and gives.
What He gives never gets outdated, old, or goes out of style.

No wonder Jesus said, "Lay up for yourselves treasurers in Heaven." But Satan (the liar) tempts man to believe that God is withholding something from you!

God only withholds that which will dishonor Him and do us harm.

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"Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice" (Ps.32:11; Hab.3:18)

A. By Faith, Rejoice in the Lord (Phil.4:4)

The most important relationship is between you and the Lord.

"Always" = consistently and continually.

We tend to look to gain inner joy and peace from job, possessions, other people, etc. If our inner contentment depends on anything else other than the Lord, it will be inconsistent.

It's not always easy to rejoice! But it is always easy to rejoice in the Lord!

When one loses the joy of his salvation (Ps. 51), he--though he is rich--lives like a spiritual pauper.

Isaiah 26:3-4 - "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength"

"Perfect peace" = lit. "peace, peace"
Habakkuk said that even when barrenness strikes the land, and famine brings disaster: "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation" (3:18)

B. By Faith, Rejoice in the Lord's Salvation (Luke 10:20)

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