

The Joy Of Being A Christian

Galatians 5:22-23
Philippians 4:4-7

All Scriptures NASB 1995 unless otherwise noted

The Joy Of Being A Christian

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." (Galatians 5:22-24)

The Joy Of Being A Christian

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 4:4-7)

Not Dependant On Outward Circumstances

- Hebrew Christians who were persecuted.

"But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one."
(Hebrews 10:32-34)

Not Dependant On Outward Circumstances

- Apostles rejoiced.

"They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them. So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name." **(Acts 5:40-41)**

Not Dependant On Outward Circumstances

- Paul and Silas in prison.

"When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them..." **(Acts 16:23-25)**

"... but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition." **(1 Thessalonians 2:2)**

Not Dependant On Outward Circumstances

- Paul about to be executed.

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing." **(2 Timothy 4:6-8)**

Not Dependant On Outward Circumstances

- Joy and suffering are related.

"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." **(Matthew 5:11-12)**

Not Dependant On Outward Circumstances

- Joy and suffering are related.

"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name." **(1 Peter 4:12-16)**

Those Who Make "Joy" Dependant Upon Circumstances Are Not Finding It

- Solomon.

"I explored with my mind how to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding me wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives. I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself; I made gardens and parks for myself and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees; I made ponds of water for myself from which to irrigate a forest of growing trees. I bought male and female slaves and I had homeborn slaves. Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem." **(Ecclesiastes 2:3-8)**

Those Who Make "Joy" Dependant Upon Circumstances Are Not Finding It

- Solomon.

"Also, I collected for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men—many concubines. Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me. All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun." **(Ecclesiastes 2:9-11)**

Those Who Make "Joy" Dependant Upon Circumstances Are Not Finding It

- Moses.

"By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward." **(Hebrews 11:24-26)**

Those Who Make "Joy" Dependant Upon Circumstances Are Not Finding It

■ The Rich Man.

"Then He said to them, 'Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.' And He told them a parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.''" But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."
(Luke 12:15-21)

Those Who Make "Joy" Dependant Upon Circumstances Are Not Finding It

■ The Prodigal son.

"And He said, 'A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.'" So he divided his wealth between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!'"
(Luke 15:11-17)

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

■ The promises of God.

"For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust." **(2 Peter 1:4)**

"For our heart rejoices in Him, because we trust in His holy name." **(Psalm 33:21)**

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God."
(Romans 5:1-2)

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

■ The promises of God.

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality." **(Romans 12:10-13)**

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **(Romans 15:13)**

"... He Himself has said, 'I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU...'" **(Hebrews 13:5b)**

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

■ Our names are recorded in heaven.

"Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven." **(Luke 10:20)**

■ Rejoice "In the Lord."

"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord."
(Philippians 3:1a)

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"
(Philippians 4:4)

■ The gospel is "good news of great joy ..."

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people ...'" **(Luke 2:10)**

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

■ The Word of God.

"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night." **(Psalm 1:2)**

"The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." **(Psalm 19:8)**

"They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb." **(Psalm 19:10)**

"I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches." **(Psalm 119:14)**

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

- The Word of God.

"I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word." (Psalm 119:16)

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

"I have inherited Your testimonies forever, for they are the joy of my heart." (Psalm 119:111)

"I rejoice at Your word, as one who finds great spoil." (Psalm 119:162)

"Those who love Your law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble." (Psalm 119:165)

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

- The Word of God.

- Preaching of Philip in Samaria.

*"Therefore, those who had been scattered went about **preaching the word**. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. So there was **much rejoicing** in that city." (Acts 8:4-8)*

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

- The Word of God.

- Preaching of Philip to the Eunuch.

"Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?' [And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'] And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing." (Acts 8:35-39)

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

- Fellowship of the saints.

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all..." (Philippians 1:3-4)

- Thankfulness with joy is a major theme of the Philippian letter.

"What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice." (Philippians 1:18)

"Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith ..." (Philippians 1:25)

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

- Fellowship of the saints.

- Thankfulness with joy is a major theme of the Philippian letter.

"But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me." (Philippians 2:17-18)

"Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard ..." (Philippians 2:28-29)

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

- Fellowship of the saints.

- Thankfulness with joy is a major theme of the Philippian letter.

"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you." (Philippians 3:1)

"Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved." (Philippians 4:1)

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

- Fellowship of the saints.
 - Thankfulness with joy is a major theme of the Philippian letter.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"
(**Philippians 4:4**)

"But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity."
(**Philippians 4:10**)

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

- Fellowship of the saints.
 - Paul thanked God for his brethren.

"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world." (**Romans 1:8**)

"I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus ..." (**1 Corinthians 1:4**)

"I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers ..." (**Philemon 4**)

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

- Fellowship of the saints.
 - Paul thanked God for his brethren.

"We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you ..."
(**Colossians 1:3**)

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers ..."
(**1 Thessalonians 1:2**)

"We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting ..."
(**2 Thessalonians 1:3a**)

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

- Fellowship of the saints.
 - We should rejoice at the anticipation of being with our brethren.

"But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith; for now we really live, if you stand firm in the Lord. For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account ..."
(**1 Thessalonians 3:6-9**)

What Gives A Christian Such Joy?

- Fellowship of the saints.
 - We should rejoice at the anticipation of being with our brethren.

"For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother."
(**Philemon 7**)

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." (**Hebrews 10:23-25**)

What Does This Mean To The Christian?

- Consider it all joy.

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (**James 1:2-4**)
- Produces joy and cultivates patience.

"For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one." (**Hebrews 10:34**)

What Does This Mean To The Christian?

- Run the race with endurance.

"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."
(Hebrews 12:1-2)

What Does This Mean To The Christian?

- The Hope of heaven is our source of joy.

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us." **(Romans 8:18)**

"... and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls."
(1 Peter 1:8-9)

"... but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation." **(1 Peter 4:13)**

What Does This Mean To The Christian?

- The Hope of heaven is our source of joy.

"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." **(2 Corinthians 4:16-18)**

What Does This Mean To The Christian?

- The Hope of heaven is our source of joy.

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'" **(Matthew 25:21)**

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." **(Jude 24-25)**

Conclusion:

- ❖ The joy of being a Christian far outweighs all of the world's adversities and makes our lives rich, full and satisfying, because we are a friend to the King of kings and Lord of lords.

*"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so **that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.** This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you."* **(John 15:10-14)**

HOW TO OBEY THE GOSPEL

Hear the word of God

(2 Thessalonians 2:14; James 1:21)

Believe the gospel message

(John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

Repent of sins

(Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

Confess Jesus Christ

(Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33)

Be Baptized for forgiveness

(Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

Remain Obedient

(Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:9)