

JOY

JOHN 17

Text: John 17:13

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¹³ And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

Introduction:

Christ in this prayer earnestly desired fullness of joy for His disciples, for its His will for His children to rejoice ever more. He was leaving them in tears and troubles but prayed that they may have His joy.

Christ is a Christian's joy. The joy of the world withers, but His joy is everlasting. The fact that our Lord is praying for us today brings us joy. To know that our Lord has committed our care to His Father brings us joy.

Our Lord prays that His joy would be our joy.

Notice:

1. JOY OF THE SAVIOR

John 15:11

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, [2] Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Was there joy in the stripes on His back, or joy in the crown of thorns? Was there joy in the spittle or joy in the mockery or joy in the stripping of His clothing? Was there joy in hearing the crowd cry “Crucify Him!”

Certainly not.

So what is that joy the Bible speaks of?

A. There was joy in knowing that He was obedient to the Father by going to Calvary, bleeding and dying to pay our sin debt.

B. There was joy in knowing that He provided the way of salvation, and all those who come to God by faith in Christ can be saved.

C. Doing the will of God in obedience to God brings true joy, the joy of Jesus Christ.

- Come what may our joy comes from being obedient to the Lord.

Joy is a quiet confidence in our heart that we have been obedient to our Lord.

Christ prayed that His joy would be fulfilled in us. He was praying that we will learn what it means to find the deep and abiding joy in obedience to God.

2. THE JOY OF SALVATION - READ (PSALMS 51)

Psalm 51:12

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

A. The joy received

Romans 10:10

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

B. The joy removed - Is the results of disobedience.

The reason that many today don't have joy and are not rejoicing in the Lord is because they are being disobedient to the Lord.

C. The joy restored.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Note: David recognized he had lost the joy, not his salvation, and then asks the Lord restore the joy.

3. JOY OF SACRIFICE

1 Chron. 29:9

Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

1 Chron. 29:17

I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

A. Work of God - Financial sacrifice

1 Chron. 29:2

Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for things to be made of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and the brass for things of brass, the iron for things of iron, and wood for things of wood; onyx stones, and stones to be set, glistening stones, and of divers colours, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance.

1 Chron. 29:3

Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,

1. Might and affection

1 Chron. 29:6-7

Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of

hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly, [7] And gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron.

1 Chron. 29:14

But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

2. Offered willingly

Note the results:

1 Chron. 29:16-22

O Lord our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee an house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own. [17] I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee. [18] O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee: [19] And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to (keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes,)

and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provision.

[20] And David said to all the congregation, Now bless the Lord your God. And all the congregation blessed the Lord God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshipped the Lord, and the king.

[21] And they sacrificed sacrifices unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings unto the Lord, on the morrow after that day, even a thousand bullocks, a thousand rams, and a thousand lambs, with their drink offerings, and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel: [22] And did eat and drink before the Lord on that day with great gladness. And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed him unto the Lord to be the chief governor, and Zadok to be priest.

B. Work of God - Physical sacrifice

Luke 6:22-23

Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. [23] Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

2 Cor. 8:2

How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

4. THE JOY OF SERVICE

Acts 20:24

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Romans 15:32

That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

5. THE JOY OF SOWING

Psalms 126:5

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

Luke 15:7

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

Luke 15:10

Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Close:

What is the joy of the Lord? It is a quiet confidence in our heart knowing that we have been obedient to our Lord.

The reason that many are not rejoicing today is because they have not obeyed the Lord in the areas of salvation, sacrifice, service, or sowing. It is impossible to be joyful and rejoicing without being obedient.

Why is it important that we have joy, and rejoice? It is the reason that so many people today who have been saved are so weak. (Read Nehemiah 8:1-3, 8-10)

Neh. 8:1-3

And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel. [2] And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month. [3] And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law.

Neh. 8:8-10

So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.

[9] And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.

[10] Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength.