

The Joy Only God Can Bring Pt.2

May 17, 2020

Psalm 16:11 ESV

You make known to me the path of life; **in your presence there is fullness of joy**; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- *The world can't give it. The world can't take it.*
- *Absolutely independent of circumstances; surpasses even the worst of circumstances.*

JOY IN GOD'S COMPANIONSHIP

- *Having God as your Companion through life, the Lover of your soul, is one of many relationships we have with the Lord.*
- *There are two ways to approach any relationship: who they are or what they can do for me.*
- *If you approach God for your own selfish ambition of how He can benefit you, you will be blind to the overwhelming joy and all-consuming pleasure of Who He is.*
- *Is your relationship with God centered upon Who He is, or what He can do for you?*
- *How many marriages fail because one spouse doesn't love the other for who they are, but for what they can do for them.*

John 15:13-16 ESV

13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

14 You are my friends (*philos - companion, dear, actively fond*) if you do what I command you.

15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

- *You will find all that you need, all that your heart is looking for, in the friendship of Jesus.*
- *But not just anyone can be His friend.*

James 2:23 ESV

and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"--and he was called a friend of God.

John 14:21-23 ESV

21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?"

23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

John 15:9-11 ESV

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

10 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.

11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

- *If people would stop living to please themselves, but live to serve and please Jesus instead, much of the mental illness of today would be healed by the friendship of Jesus.*

Jude 1:20-21 ESV

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,

21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Hosea 11:4 ESV

4 I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands (cord, rope, chain) of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.

Throughout the Bible, God desires a continual companionship with His people, but how?

John 15:4 ESV

"Abide in me, and I in you."

James 4:8 ESV

8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 ESV

16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

"The man who would know God must give time to Him. He must count no time wasted which is spent in the cultivation of His acquaintance. He must give himself to meditation and prayer hours on end. So did the saints of old, the glorious company of the apostles, the goodly fellowship of the prophets and the believing members of the holy church in all generations. And so must we if we would follow in their train."

— A.W. Tozer, *God's Pursuit of Man: Tozer's Profound Prequel to The Pursuit of God*

1 Peter 1:8 ESV

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.

Psalms 43:3-5 ESV

3 Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!

4 Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

5 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Habakkuk 3:17-19 ESV

17 Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls,

18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

19 GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.

Philippians 4:4 ESV

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

Luke 24:13 ESV

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,

14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.

16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad.

18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

19 And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.

21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.

22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning,

23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.

24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther,

29 but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.

31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"