

“Great Joy”

December 16, 2012

(Isaiah 61:3) Jesus, the Anointed One, will transition us from the place of “breathing despair”—the constant droning of dreaded thoughts like: “Don’t get your hopes up. Remember your disappointments. Why pray? Things will never change...”—to the “tent of praise”—where I will envelope you in My radiance; and you will be filled with praise (from exuberant expression → quiet, intimate contemplation).

PROP- The “joy of the Lord” will permeate us as we live in the perspective that “with God all things are possible.”

- The angels announced: “Good news of great joy...for all people” (Luke 2:10)
- (Matthew 2:10) The magi experienced “a violent/vehement overpowering joy overtook them and they expressed it” [KJV- “they rejoiced with exceeding great joy”; “Rejoice”- to express & receive increase]
 - In the natural, “happy” because of a “happening”
 - In the Kingdom, joy increases as we rejoice!

WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO REJOICE:

1. He is joyful.

“The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love He will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.” (Zephaniah 3:17)

“In Your presence is fullness of joy.” (Psalm 16:11)

“Rejoice that your names are written in Heaven” (Luke 10:20)

***David said, “My heart rejoices...and I am filled with joy because of your countenance (*the way you look at me*).” (Acts 2:26-28)**

2. We can be honest with Him.

“Blessed (filled with great joy) are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4)

***When we are “real” with God, telling Him what’s really going on inside our souls—He supernaturally brings peace and strength (“com-fortify”). He’s fully aware. He’s just waiting for us to let Him in!**

After a 16-month season of severe rebellion, immaturity, and compromise—David “came clean” and was made clean. “*He delivered me because He delighted in me*” (Psalm 18:19).

3. We can trust Him.

Elizabeth declared over Mary: “(You are) **blessed** (*exceedingly joy-filled*)” because you “believed what the Lord has said to (you) will be accomplished!” (Luke 1:45)

The Lord gives us “joy and peace as (we) trust in Him” (Romans 15:13).

4. We can call on Him.

Even before we receive the answer to our prayers, Jesus said, “Ask for anything in My name...and **your joy will be complete** (*to cram full; over the top*).” (Luke 16:24)

5. We can see the world through His eyes.

Paul said to a very frustrating church: “I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.” (2 Cor. 7:4)

Jesus said that when we join Him (“co-mmand”) in loving people—His “joy (will be) in us, and (our) joy will be complete” (John 15:11).

6. There is great joy in ministering to others.

His invitation for us to join Him: “Enter the joy of your Master.” (Mt 25:23)

His joy can fill a city where His Kingdom comes (Acts 8:8).

RESPONSE:

He restores His joy in us (Psalm 51:12- “The joy of our *complete restoration*.”)