

Joy



Who doesn't want to be Joyful!!

- We all desire to be always joyful!
- This need controls most of human behaviour
e.g. Searching for love and friendship,
enjoyment of nice food and shelter, the desire
for money, comfort and security.
- It is engraved in our minds that good times= joy, but is that the full truth?

The real things!!

- A real friendship stands in hardship and provides in the time of need, not just in the time of fun and ease.
- A real love stands although of differences in opinions and views, not just in the time of emotions and passions.
- A really gentle person is always gentle even being attacked or criticized.

And a real Joy

Is the Joy that stands even in hardship

The Epistle of *Joy*

- There are 260 chapters in New Testament
- The word, *Joy* was mentioned 65 times. This averages 0.25 pre chapter
- The Epistle to the **Philippians** has 4 chapters and the word *Joy* was mentioned 5 times. This averages 1.25 per chapter!! Wow
- It is the Epistle of *Joy*

Background

- St Paul founded the church in Philippi during his second missionary trip around 50-51 AD. Acts 20.
- The epistle was written around 61-63 AD while St Paul was in **prison!!** Along with Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon epistles.
- The epistle was written as a continuation of St Paul's ministry to the church there and to thank them for the financial support they provided to him while imprisoned.

Joy in the prison, awaiting a sentence!

- St Paul had two main reasons for his **joy** while in prison; 1st is the Philippians' steadfastness in faith.
- “³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;” Ch 1

Joy in prison awaiting a sentence

- 2nd is the progress of preaching the Gospel in Rome where St Paul was imprisoned there. He used his hardship as a chance to minister the word!
- “¹² But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; ¹⁴ and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.” Ch 1

St Paul's prescription for *Joy*

- As a wise teacher, St Paul gave the Philippians instructions to obtain *Joy* in life
- He gave them a new concept for real *Joy* that stands even in hardship
- *Joy* that is not dependant on the situation or fulfilment of earthly desires
- *Joy* that fills the heart of heavenly peace;
“²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
John 14

Sources of *real Joy*

- Looking to the Lord as the source of comfort, a loving Father, that sacrificed Himself for my sake and always there for me is the main source of *joy* for a Christian
- Loving the brethren and having a spiritual fellowship, rather than a stumbling fellowship is another source of *Joy*.
- “¹ Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,” Ch 2

Sources of *real Joy*

- Unity in love creates *Joy* in the heart. Jealousy, Contentions, selfishness take *Joy* away from the heart creating feelings of hatred and revenge.
- “² fulfill my *joy* by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. ³ *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” Ch 2

Sources of *real Joy*

- “¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,”
Ch 2
- It is a deep Christian concept, to be joyful, I need to be in love and harmony with the others, not on top or against the others, always trying to prove that I am right! A concept if we follow,we become the light of the world.

Sources of *real Joy*

- Obedience gives the soul peace and *Joy* Useless arguments and rebellion take away *Joy* from the heart.
- “¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.” Ch 2

Humility and *Joy*

- A humble person is a joyful person. He doesn't get upset if people don't treat him in a certain way. He doesn't envy people for what they have got and he hasn't. He doesn't get upset if someone is better than him. Our great example is the Lord Himself. Incarnation was the utmost action of humility. The Lord taught us that it is very hard to attain a spiritual goal without humility.

Humility and *Joy*

- “⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,” Ch 2

Joy even in hardship

- People whose eyes always on eternal life in heaven are full of **Joy** regardless of the situation. Martyrs used to go to their execution, singing and praising. People who care too much about earthly desires, searching for money, pleasures etc.; Never get satisfied or filled, never get **Joy** !! They waste their lives looking down rather than looking up!!!

Joyful eyes on heaven

- “²² Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your **joy** no one will take from you.” John 16
- “⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” Ch 3

Final Hints about *Joy*

- “⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. ⁹ The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.” Ch 4

**“Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the
Lord” Philippians 3:1**

