

Prayer Study 6

JOY

“And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the Law. Then he said the them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

The Lord God bring to my remembrance this morning two passages of scripture that had nothing to do with my original teaching on this subject. One was written by Paul to the Romans: “For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but the righteousness and peace and joy un the Holy Spirit.” The other were King David’s words in Psalm 51: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do no cast me away from Your presence. And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation**, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.”

The first and last message of Jesus to the people was, “Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand.” Obviously, this teaching of the Kingdom was extremely important to Him, and the greatest teacher of the New Testament links the Kingdom with joy and the greatest king, a man after God’s own heart, lings converting sinners with joy. Is the Lord trying to tell us something here?

What He has spoken to me is this: The next major move of God will be inextricably connected to an outpouring of JOY. Dancing before Him is coming to the camp, but this will only come when we are walking in righteousness and peace, both the consequences of HOLINESS (holiness, for those who have not been here, has been a recurring theme here for the past few months). And Holiness is what I long for! For those who were here last week, you might remember that the first mention of Zion in the Psalms is as a Holy connection between so much teaching that is done here. Somehow, the Lord is trying to tell us something BIG, and I am not sure we are getting the message.

Several years ago, I read a quote from someone: “The most infallible witness of the presence of the Lord in a person’s life is JOY.” This really convicts me today because I have for so long been a serious, solemn, and often depressed Christian working my way to Him instead of just sitting in His presence and receiving His joy. So often I have gotten my eyes on circumstances instead of keeping my focus on the one true God, the Mighty One of Israel.

Will EPWORTH be a time of JOY? Will First Love Ministries be a place of JOY? In what is coming ahead, only real joy in the Lord will carry us through. We’ve got to have it from the Lord. I am firmly convinced that this one fruit of the Spirit will be one of the major tools the Holy Spirit will use to break the bondages of pornography and sexual addiction and substance abuse, etc., in the lives of God’s people. Pray about it!

But, how do we get there, from Point A to Point B, from a live of dullness to abundant live abiding in the Vine and full of Joy? As usual, the Holy Word of God gives us the road map.

- a. Giving willing to the Lord’s Work: 1st Chronicles 29:1-9
- b. Overcoming enemies: 2nd Chronicles 20:27, Esther 8:16-17 & 9:22

- c. Trusting Him and Loving His Name: Psalm 5:11
- d. Being in His Presence: Psalm 16:11
- e. Receiving deliverance and healing: Psalm 30, Acts 8:8
- f. Walking in Righteousness: Psalm 32:11
- g. Receiving salvation: Psalm 51:12, Isaiah 12:3, 1st Peter 1:8
- h. Being in Zion: Psalm 48:1, Isaiah 51:3
- i. Remembering what the Lord has done: Psalm 126
- j. Bringing peace: Proverbs 12:20
- k. Having wise children: Proverbs 17:21 & 23:24
- l. Seeing the Glory of the Lord: Isaiah 35:2
- m. Being ministers of our God: Isaiah 61:6-7, Isaiah 65:11-14, Isaiah 66:5
- n. Receiving the Word of God: Jeremiah 15:16, Matthew 13:20
- o. Bringing the Sacrifice of Praise into the House of the Lord: Jeremiah 33:11
- p. Fasting: Zechariah 8:19
- q. Being faithful to the Lord and using your talents for Him: Matthew 25:21
- r. Recognizing the Resurrection: Matthew 28:8
- s. Being persecuted for Jesus: Luke 6:23
- t. Smashing the works of Satan in His Name: Luke 10:17
- u. Seeing a sinner repent and accept Christ: Luke 15:7, Acts 15:3, Isaiah 9:3
- v. Worshipping Him: Luke 24:52
- w. Hearing the Bridegroom's voice: John 3:29
- x. Keeping the Lord's commandments & abiding in the Vine: John 15:11
- y. Asking and receiving in His name: John 16:24
- z. Seeing miracles: Acts 8:8
- aa. Being filled with the Holy Spirit: Acts 13:52, Romans 14:17
- bb. Knowing the Grace of God in trials of affliction: 2nd Corinthians 8:2
- cc. Bearing the fruit of the Spirit: Galatians 5:23
- dd. Walking in faith: Philippians 1:25
- ee. Loving one another and walking in unity: Philippians 2:2
- ff. Having relationship with dearly beloved brothers: Philippians 4:1
- gg. Seeing those you have discipled in the presence of Jesus at His Coming: 1st Thessalonians 2:19
- hh. Reunion with those you love in the faith: 2nd Timothy 1:4
- ii. Receiving love from others: Philemon 7
- jj. Knowing our destination: Hebrews 12:2
- kk. Having your faith tested: James 1:2
- ll. Believing in the appearing of Jesus Christ: 1st Peter 1:8
- mm. Being partakers of Christ's suffering: 1st Peter 4:13, Luke 6:22-23, Isaiah 66:5, Psalm 126:5
- nn. Having fellowship with the Father and His Son: 1st John 1:4
- oo. Hearing that our spiritual children walk in truth: 3rd John 4
- pp. Being presented faultless before the presence of His Glory: Jude 24
- qq. Putting **J**esus first, **O**thers second, and **Y**ourself last.