



The Theology of Joy Pt 3: New Testament Rejoicing!

February 22, 2015

Text: James 1:2-4

Takeaways so far:

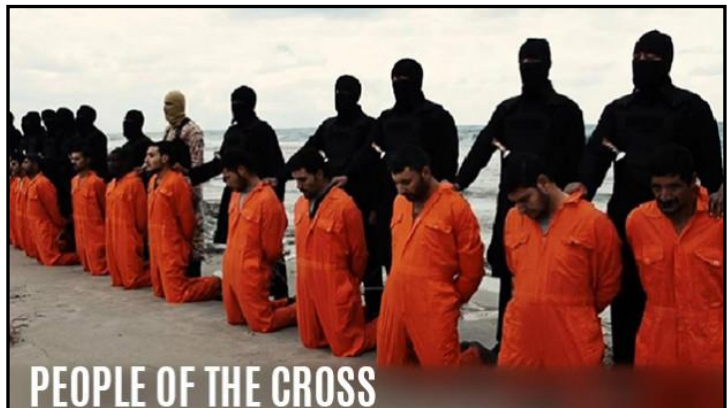
1. Based on James' exhortation to "count" trials joy...joy, in its most Christ-based sense, is a **decision** based in Christ's finished work!
2. Joy was purchased for us by our Lord; it is part of our Christian heritage, poured into our hearts by the Spirit; it is granted at the moment of conversion and cultivated over a life of obedience, prayer, study of Scripture, faith, and good works!

Gal 5:22-23 ESV But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

3. AND...the fullest expression is still to come: **eternal life!**

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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1Pe 1:8-9 ESV)

4. New Testament joy is based not in situations, but the **Savior**; not in material possessions but the **Master**; not in perfect circumstances but a perfect **Christ**, and not in earthly problems but an eternal perspective!
5. James encourages his readers to walk in joy because Christ wins! And all any trial can possibly do, if one has the right perspective, is anchor us in the reality of His victory! →



"Lord Jesus Christ"—Last words

6. Tested faith produces steadfastness or patience. Strong faith in Jesus makes us hold on to Him tighter, praise Him a little harder, long with more passion for Heaven, and live with more Kingdom abandon!
7. **James 1:4 is one of a complete Christian. Once bad times can be consistently counted as joy in Jesus, faith is battle tested and rising day by day in Jesus, and a walk is steadfast, immovable and always abounding in Jesus, then the Christian has EVERYTHING!**

"The full effect of steadfastness is a Christian who understands that Jesus is Enough! He or she understands that everything we see around us is temporary. We begin to live for another place! If you want to know how the saints of old walked through so much, this is how. Jesus becomes their all! His Word and will becomes everything! Even trials are seen as chances to glorify Him! And even in death, they knew and had joy in the truth that eternity awaits! Dear friends, once you no longer fear death, fear cancer, fear hunger, fear abuse, fear poverty, fear violence, fear the world, fear man, fear missing out on some temporary dream, fear your team losing, or fear fear ☺, you can start living with joy!"

Thoughts for Today: New Testament Rejoicing!

Rejoicing in Jesus' **Birth!**

Luk 2:6-11 ESV And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. (7) And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (8) And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (9) And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. (10) And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. (11) For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

- *Luk 1:44 ESV* For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.
- *Mat 2:10-12 ESV* When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. (11) And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. (12) And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.
- May we learn to simply rejoice that the Savior has come! ☺

Rejoicing in **Suffering** for Jesus!

Luk 6:20-23 ESV And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. (21) "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. (22) "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! (23) **Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.**

- Amen! New Testament joy is over, on top of and beyond circumstances! It is anchored in heaven!

Rejoicing in the **Kingdom!**

Mat 13:44 ESV "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. **Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.**

- When we understand we have received a "Kingdom that cannot be shaken," we will rejoice and offer Him acceptable worship! (Heb 12:28) Our God is a consuming fire! (Heb 12:29)
- *Rom 14:17 ESV* For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Rejoicing in **Abiding** and **Obeying** Jesus!

Joh 15:7-12 ESV If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (8) By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (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.** (12) "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

- Abiding in His love...living in Him...walking with Him...being in relationship with Jesus, is enough to cause an overwhelming amount of rejoicing!
- He loves us, oh how He loves us! Rejoice! Jesus loves you! Indeed...

- *Rom 8:38-39 ESV* For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rejoicing in Jesus' **Resurrection!**

Joh 16:20-24 ESV Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. (21) When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. (22) So also you have sorrow now, **but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.** (23) In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. (24) Until now you have asked nothing in my name. **Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.**

- Just as the disciples rejoiced in “seeing Him again” so should we rejoice. He rose from the dead!
- Also, like the disciples, we have the great privilege of aligning our will with His and experiencing answered prayer! God still answers prayer! Rejoice that He hears, sympathizes with us in our weakness, and responds!

Rejoicing in the **Words** of Jesus!

Joh 17:13-21 ESV **But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.** (14) I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (15) I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. (16) They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (17) Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. (18) As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. (19) And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (20) "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, (21) that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

- We should rejoice in His Word...His Commandments...His Precepts! We should rejoice in them all...in the reading, the hearing, and the doing! Oh, Lord, fulfill this sort of joy in us!
- Lord Jesus, thank you for giving us eternal life (Joh 17:3), manifesting your Name (Joh 17:6), praying for us (Joh 17:9), and keeping and guarding us (Joh 17:11-12) just like you did for the disciples, that we might obey and be sanctified by your truth!

Rejoicing in **Worship** for our Risen King: Jesus!

Luk 24:46-53 ESV and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, (47) and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. (48) You are witnesses of these things. (49) And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." (50) Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. (51) While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. (52) And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, (53) and were continually in the temple blessing God.

- Hallelujah!

A Few Exhortations for CRCC from the Epistles:

1. *Rom 15:13 ESV* **May the God of hope fill you with all joy** and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

2. **Col 1:11-12 ESV** (11) May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, **for all endurance and patience with joy**, (12) giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
3. **Heb 12:1-2 ESV** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2) looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
4. **Rom 5:1-5 ESV** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (2) Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (3) **More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance**, (4) **and endurance produces character, and character produces hope**, (5) **and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us**.
5. **Rom 12:11-14 ESV** Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. (12) **Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer**. (13) Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. (14) Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
6. **Php 4:4-7 ESV** **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice**. (5) Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; (6) do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

 We said last week that somewhere along the line, we should begin to long for eternity...our lives in heaven with Jesus. This is the ultimate source of our joy:

Rev 19:6-9 ESV Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. (7) **Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;** (8) *it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.* (9) And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

Walk in joy CRCC. True joy. Joy in Jesus regardless of circumstances.

Amen!