

GOD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER IS A HOUSE OF JOY

J.S. Boegl • House of Prayer Series #04

- A. ***“Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”*** (Isaiah 56:7)
- B. As we engage God in the place of worshipful prayer He fills us with supernatural joy and exhilaration. When we sit at His feet we receive an exhilaration - passion - inspiration - contentment - brightness - fire - pleasure - gladness - delight that is unlike any other joy that we can experience.
Though you have not seen Him (with the naked eye) you love Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory. (1 Peter 1:8)
- C. This joy/exhilaration fulfills the innate, human desire the Father hard-wired us for. This joy isn't just for “the emotional type”. *You* were specifically designed to be entirely exhilarated by His presence.
1. The new man
 2. Filled with the Spirit of God
- D. If we don't tap into the joy that's to be found in our God, we *will* go searching for it in elsewhere. The lie that our world tells us is that there is no deep joy in knowing God and living in righteousness. If we believe that lie, we will not access the exhilaration that our heart was designed for, *and* we, (with the enemy's generous help) *will* fill our souls with substitute, false, inferior fuel.
1. What will the enemy use as a substitute for the joy-fuel that our soul was meant to run on?
Answers:
Anything, so long as it isn't God, Himself; so long as it keeps our hearts from being filled with His love.
 2. The truth, and the good news of the matter is there is so much more to exhilarate the human heart in beholding the limitless beauty of the Alpha and Omega; the One Who must ***bend low to behold His creation***, than there is to be had in the whole of the rest of the created world.
The Lord is high above all nations. His glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, Who dwells on high, Who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in the heavens and in the earth? (Psalm 113:4-6)
- E. This joy is our source of eternal strength. ***The JOY of the LORD is our strength.*** (Nehemiah 8:10) As we are united with Him, He generously empowers us with His own eternal, inexhaustible, prevailing and superior source of joy and strength.
This is the strength that Paul prays for the believers in the Church at Ephesus.
I pray... that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width, and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:16)
1. This exhilarating, unified strength is precisely what Jesus prayed for His followers to receive when He prayed to the Father in the garden, just before His death.
Now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. (John 17:13)
- F. Jesus' exhortation to the Church is not, *“Sit at My feet and be joyful”*. His extraordinary invitation is, *“Let Me be your joy! Find joy in Who I Am!”* In His presence Jesus delights to reveal that He, Himself is our joy! When we engage God in the dynamics He's setting forth in His House of Prayer we are beholding our exceeding great reward. The Lord told Abraham, ***Abraham, I Am your exceedingly great reward.*** (Genesis 15:1)
- G. God, as our joy and exhilaration is to be the church's natural, status-quo atmosphere. We were created to be daily nourished by His presence. We are in the Spirit. And the Spirit is in us. His joy is the breathing atmosphere of our heart.
for the kingdom of God is... righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)
The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy... (Galatians 5:22)

- H. This was the New Testament Church atmosphere that Luke was describing in (Acts 2:46-47), where the followers of Jesus were ***continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with joy and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people.***
1. Augustine, Jerome, the Medieval Church, and others have used the word “*jubilate*” to describe the coming of the Holy Spirit upon believers’ lives.
- I. As we grow in the things of God, we learn to engage His presence in all places of our lives. We aren’t just people who sit in a room together. In the place of prayer the Holy Spirit trains our senses to engage His presence in a controlled environment so that when we are in other contexts we are able to tap into the joy that’s to be found in His indwelling presence.
1. We must learn to do this now, we must teach others to do this now, so that we
 - a. see the wisdom in doing it
 - b. have capacity to do it; so that we *know how* to do itwhen the crisis that’s mounting on the earth (rage against the truth of God) increasingly becomes our cultural norm.
- J. Because the Church has not given herself to this reality, She has starved herself of vital, Kingdom oxygen. Therefore we find her gasping for breath, caught up in false forms of exhilaration that don’t cultivate vibrant Christlikeness and Holy Spirit power. We don’t see His power in our lives. Others aren’t moved by what they see in the Church.
- K. In the casual course of our life, as we become aware of the lack of joy in our lives we’re not to go in search of joy. We’re to go in search of *Him*. The fountainhead of our joy is nothing other than encountering God, Himself. Come, and drink deep beloved! He’s always more!

I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer... I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, that you tell him I am lovesick! (Song of Songs 5:6, 8)

“*The goal of prayer is God!*” Corey Russell