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GOD'S JOY OVER YOU

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Penned by: The Preacher

*The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.
(Zephaniah 3:17)*

HE WILL JOY OVER YOU WITH SINGING

If we look at the meaning for the Hebrew word for joy in the passage above, we would discover that it means to get very joyful, even to dance, spin around and leap for joy. Now, let's remember that this passage is speaking about our God and Creator. Can you grasp the reality of our God singing and showing this kind of emotion over us? Yet, that's what God does over his creation whom he loves. So, let's do away with the mentality that thinks of God as some killjoy who want to stripe us of all pleasure. For nothing can be further from the truth.

OUR JOY FOR HIM

Now if God shows this kind of emotion over us, we should be singing and getting emotional over him as well. We should be rejoicing over the fact that he is our awesome God and Creator in who's *1*"presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." And not only that, but we who are in Christ Jesus will be spending eternity with God in paradise. Oh, how wonderful that day will be! ¹(Psalm 16:11)

Yet do we even dare to tap our feet or clap our hands or show any kind of emotion when it comes to worshiping Him? Oh, what's wrong with us fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? Do not believe the lie that we must be reserved when it comes to worshiping and praising our God. We do need to pray and seek God's help for us as a

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church to praise him with our whole being holding nothing back as David did. For David: ²"danced before the LORD with all his might." Yes, our God is so worthy, so let's truly get excited over our Awesome God and be in love with him as well. ²(2 Samuel 6:14)

BEING CONTAGIOUS

Okay, I know that if you totally let loose at your next church gathering they may escort you out the door. But it only takes a few people excited about God to get others going as well. His joy is contagious and let us pray that everybody would catch it. So, go ahead and be totally obsessed with him and in love with Him, because let's face it, living for anything else will only lead you to emptiness.

"The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.' "Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:24-31)

JESUS IN PROVERBS

Over in Proverbs we see Jesus Christ who is personified in the usage of the word wisdom. In this chapter at verse 30 and 31 we read: *"Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men."* When He completed the world, He rejoiced saying, *"my delights were with the sons of men."* Wow, God rejoices and delights in us his creation. I find it so comforting that God loves us and that he does delights in us. But not only that, ³*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* Our God who loved us so much, sent his only Son to suffer for us and take the penalty for our sins. But thanks be to God for our Savior Jesus Christ, who ⁴loved us and gave himself for us. For it is he that rose victoriously and overcame the grave. Let us also thank the Father for his ⁵Holy Spirit who indwells

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in us believers. We were bought at a price, so let us ⁶set our mind and heart always on God, living a life that totally glorifies him. Amen. ³(John 3:16) ⁴(Galatians 2:20) ⁵(1 Corinthians 6:19) ⁶(Colossians 3:1-3)

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

*7"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me. This: 'I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands,' has obvious and beautiful fulfillment in the nail-scarred hands of Jesus. As Jesus told Thomas in a post-resurrection appearance, look at ⁸My hands. When we see the nail-scarred hands of Jesus, we see how He has inscribed us on the palms of His hands. With such love, how could God ever forget His people?" **Quoted By David Guzik.** ⁷(Isaiah 49:15-16) ⁸(John 20:27)*

So, in conclusion to all this, let us always remember how much Jesus loves us and in like manner to be in love with him. Let the world experience our love and ⁹oneness with God and with each other so that all may see Jesus Christ in us. And let us not forget that we are the light of the world, so let the love of Jesus shine in our hearts as we tell the world about him. Our prayer and hope should always be that those who see us would see God in us, those who hear us would hear Christ speaking through us, and those who know us would know that his Spirit dwells in us, and that they would crave what we have. Amen. ⁹(John 17:21-23)

It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around, can warm up to its glowing. That's how it is with God's love, once you have experienced it, you spread His love to everyone; you want to pass it on. What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding; the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming. That's how it is with God's love; once you've experienced it, you want to sing "It's fresh like spring"; you want to pass it on. I wish for you my friend, this happiness that I've found. You can depend on Him, it matters not where you're bound. I'll shout it from the mountain top – Praise God I want the world to know; the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on. **Pend by: Kurt Kaiser**

- *Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength. (Nehemiah 8:10)*

Scripture References to above article:

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- Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart. (Psalm 32:11)
- Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King. Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. (Psalm 149:2-5)
- Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. (Psalm 150:1-6)

***References to quotes above:**

- for Wisdom here has personal properties and actions; and that intelligent divine person can be no other than the Son of God himself" – Matthew Henry.
- Jesus explained to the men on the road to Emmaus that everything that was written in the Psalms (Scriptures) was written about Him (cf. Luke 24:27). In Proverbs He is the wisdom of God" – Dave Shirley.
- The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old," this is the Lord Jesus, this is Wisdom" - Dr. J Vernon.

Scriptures on Rejoicing in the LORD:

- Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. (Psalm 16:11)
- Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. (Philippians 4:4)
- Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. (Psalm 97:12)
- The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 29:19)
- I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of

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righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. (Isaiah 61:10)

- Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow. (Jeremiah 31:13)
- Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. (Joel 2:23)
- Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. (Habakkuk 3:18)
- And they of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine: yea, their children shall see it, and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD. (Zechariah 10:7)

References to Dancing for Joy:

- And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. (2 Samuel 6:14)
- Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness; (Psalm 30:11)
- Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp. (Psalm 149:3)
- Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. (Psalm 150:4)
- A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
- Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow. (Jeremiah 31:13)

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