

Ring of Fire Ministries

Prison Ministry Outreach Newsletter ~ June 2024

The joy of the Lord is my strength. Nehemiah 8:10

Philippians is known for being the happiest book in the Bible, yet... Guess what? It was actually written by Paul when he was in prison. The moral of this story is... Don't let your circumstance steal your joy!

If you are anything like me, it is astonishing how fleeting JOY in our lives can actually be. So recently, I was reflecting on JOY and pondering why my JOY is so temporary and based on outside influences around me. Then as I reflected even more and spent time in thought with the Lord Jesus and in His Word... He, by the Holy Spirit, began to show me more about JOY and how yes, it is true my own JOY is fleeting, His, however, is not! If we look within or even to others to meet our needs for a joyful life, it will come and go... But if we look unto Jesus alone, He will fill us with a different type of JOY, a lasting One... Himself. And when we seek Him the most and He means to the most to us, the fruit of HIM is JOY and we no longer are downcast in our souls, up one day, down the next depending on circumstances that arise in everyday life.

Like with all puzzles, Jesus is our Answer and key to us being content, in plenty and in seasons of want.

The World will teach us JOY comes from another source, separate of Jesus, so it isn't a constant in our lives. The Bible teaches us something very contrasting to what the average person in the World believes. The root word of JOY in the Word of God, actually means "Gladness & joined to something." Although, it is true we often get "Joined to" people or ideas that are not good for us Spiritually, the Lord is calling us all to look only to Him as our true and eternal Source of sustaining JOY. When He is all we seek, we begin to see He is all we really need to endure and be strengthened in JOY, even to the very end. Even through the most difficult times of our lives, He is there to pour into us JOY. All we need to do is our part, which is to ask Him to come into our lives and have His way in our hearts, in that we are purified, cleansed from iniquity, so that He takes the place of all that used to be our heart's desire, but did not serve us very well in living a Godly life, dedicated as one who belongs to Him.

In 1 Thessalonians 2 it says, Our HOPE and JOY is to be in the presence of Jesus, when He comes. What is amazing about this verse is that... He "Comes into our lives" every single moment of every single day. When we call out to Him, He meets us in our time of need right where we are and He never will leave our side. I encourage you to ask this of Him today and always. Even if you do not believe quite yet He will come to you, by faith and hope ask Him to "appear" in your heart and life today. We all have moments in which we question if Jesus is really there or does He care about me? Even I have times when doubt tries to sneak in through subtle ways. In these times we just press into Him even more, waiting and expecting for Him to place His touch upon us in a most precious way.

Today I encourage you to read in your Bible – Phillipians and 1 Thessalonians, which are how God speaks to you. It is the truth, His Word, that shall make you free and who He sets free is free, indeed! May the Lord Jesus draw you unto Himself today and may you be filled with JOY and bound to Him in strength always!

In His Love, Angela

The Lord has appointed *Ring of Fire Ministries* to feed spiritual food to you and to help your grow spiritually in your walk with Jesus, in that you partake of Him and are content, in plenty and in want. If you desire a Bible and do not have one or a Bible Study, please write to us and we will provide you with the materials you need to spend more time with Jesus each day. In addition, should you know of an inmate who would benefit from our Pen Pal services or need a Bible or Bible Study, please have them write to us making that request.

PLEASE NOTE: We are not a dating site or able to provide legal counsel or financial assistance. Everything we do offer is to only assist you with your walk of faith. When requesting a Pen Pal, be advised, you may be matched with a male or female of any age. Keep Shining for HIM!