

# 2019

## Laughing With God



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Have you ever thought of God's sense of humor? In Ecclesiastes 3:1 it states "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

**Ecclesiastes 3:4 (KJV)**

*<sup>4</sup> A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

When you get mad at your dog or your cat and you are telling them how bad they acted, what would you do if they spoke back? I mean after you wake up from fainting that is!

**Numbers 22:28-29 (NIV)**<sup>28</sup> Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?" <sup>29</sup> Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made a fool of me! If only I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now."

**Jonah 1:17 (NIV)** *Jonah's Prayer-17 Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*

**Matthew 7:4-5 (NIV)** <sup>4</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? <sup>5</sup> You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

**Luke 6:21 King (KJV)**<sup>21</sup> *Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.*

Just look at God's creations, the giraffe, the platypus, the penguin, the wombat, or the Long-Wattled Umbrellabird.



We are created in God's image, there is no verse in the Bible that says, "Jesus laughed," but we know that He empathized with us completely and felt all of our emotions.

### **Luke 6:39 (ESV)**

*<sup>39</sup> He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit?"*

Jesus used parables to teach, it painted a picture in the minds of those listening, it was practical things that to nearly anyone would seem so ridiculous, yet had so much truth in His words. We have a bad habit of thinking so seriously all the time when reading the Bible, we are supposed to receive "JOY" from God's word. Jesus used ridiculous to teach wisdom. People understood what He was saying, He made them think outside the box a little bit. In those times, a sense of humor was doing exactly what Jesus did. Use things that sounded so crazy, but in the end got the point across, and they made sense.

### **Luke 6:41-42 (ESV)**

*<sup>41</sup> Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? <sup>42</sup> How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.*

Can't you just hear some guy in the back cracking up because Jesus said 'he had a log in his own eye'.

### **Matthew 23:24 (ESV)**

*<sup>24</sup> You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!*

### **Psalms 126:2 (ESV)**

*<sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then they said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."*

### **Genesis 17:17 (ESV)**

*<sup>17</sup> Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"*

I'm not real sure what Abraham did here was laughing with God, but he was definitely laughing about being a hundred years old and having a new baby! But, if you think about the relationship Abraham had with God, his Lord and Father, God may have been laughing with Abraham!

Have you ever laughed at something that was funny to you, but may have not been funny to anyone else? Or have you ever had someone play a prank on you and tell you something funny, and you laugh and they pretend it was not funny just so they could laugh at you. I don't know how God reacted in this next verse, but I wouldn't want to have been Sarah at that moment!

### **Genesis 18:12-15 (ESV)**

*<sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup> The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' <sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."*

Now, Sarah does laugh again, and states that God is the reason that she laughs and everyone who hears will laugh over her. I think more laughter out of amazement that a ninety year old woman would conceive and bear a son for Abraham. Laughter of joy and amazement possibly. God made us in His image, and we have a sense of humor, so it is reasonable to assume God has a sense of humor as well.

### **Genesis 21:6 English Standard Version (ESV)**

*<sup>6</sup> And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me."*

I remember going to a men's breakfast meeting one Saturday morning. The night before while reading God's word and pondering upon things, I had a question that when I asked it sounded good, but I felt like not only did God laugh but was about to bop me on the head, because the answer was right there in front of me. I walked in to the table of men and told them I thought God laughed at me! An elder of the church without missing a beat, looked up at me and said, "You mean again!" There was coffee nearly spit everywhere that morning for sure.

### **Job 8:21 (ESV)**

*<sup>21</sup> He will yet fill your mouth with laughter, and your lips with shouting.*

### **Psalms 2:4 (ESV)**

*<sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.*

In Psalm 2:4, it states that God, "HE" who sits in the heavens laughs! In this instance, and if you read the whole chapter, this may not have been a good laugh. The people were plotting and the kings and rulers were taking counsel together against the Lord. God was about to speak in his wrath (v.5) and 'terrify' them in His fury! I'm not sure I would have enjoyed that laugh unless I was sitting in heaven next to God at that moment. The same thing for the following verse as well:

### **Psalms 37:13 (ESV)**

*<sup>13</sup> but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming.*

In researching 'Laughing with God', I found out that this actually was and has been a long debate about whether or not the Bible contained any humor. Several scholars agreed that there is 'no' humor in the scriptures. However, from some Hebrew scholars, they contend that Hebrew humor is exactly the same type that we see in scripture, especially with Jesus using outrageous parables to make a point.

### **Psalm 84:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Here in Psalm 84, it talks about the 'heart and flesh' singing joy to the living God. In Deuteronomy 28 it talks about what happens when we are not joyful and full of gladness. In the following verses it explains exactly what God is going to do to them who did not have that gladness of heart.

### **Deuteronomy 28:47 (ESV)**

<sup>47</sup> *Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things,*

Laughing with God is meant to allow you to look at yourself and scripture with a new perspective, gaining joy and understanding from God's word. Yes, life is a serious thing; serving or failing to serve God is a very serious thing in our lives. But God is not some grumpy old guy sitting on a throne way up high with a grim look on his face all the time. If you really think about it, how is it God cannot laugh at some of the stupid things we do and some of the silly questions we ask sometimes. Enjoy God's word and purpose for your life. If any of you have ever seen Christian Comedians. There are several out there right now, some of them grew up in church and some of their fathers were pastors. Their calling to share God's word through comedy should tell us something. God is always there with us, beside us when we need a friend, behind us when we need someone to watch our back, ahead of us when we walk into the storm, below us when we are on sinking sand, above us when the rain and hail set in. I can only imagine that as God walks with one of those gifted Christian comedians, God is sitting front and center, laughing with them.

**Question:** What have you seen, done or experienced that made you rejoice or laugh in your time with God?

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**Question:** Are you so serious about the things in your life and so little time to spend time with God that you forget to smile and laugh with our Heavenly Father?

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We should be able to talk to God about everything; we should be able to sit down just as we do with any of our friends and have a cup of coffee. Even if God doesn't say anything, be a good friend, a good son or daughter and invite Him anyway.

### **Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV)**

<sup>22</sup> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,* <sup>23</sup> *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Laughter, like yawning, is contagious. Would you rather share a yawn, or laughter to those around you.

I can visualize the apostle's sitting around their table at subway, eating a sandwich after crossing the Sea of Galilee, which by the way scared them to death when the storm came up and Jesus was asleep, talking about how much crow they had to eat that day, and at least it wasn't in the sandwich they were eating.

What about when Simon had been fishing all night and they had caught nothing, he told Jesus they hadn't caught anything, more than likely in disgust. If I were Jesus, and I knew what was about to happen I would have smiled a tiny smile.

Sometimes after we have had a long day and things have gone from bad to worse, we really aren't in the mood to laugh, but if we look at it for what it is, a single moment in time, a single day filled with frustration, and in our joy in knowing our future is bright with Jesus Christ, shouldn't we just choose to smile, or laugh to ourselves and count it all for joy? Every little thing that evil can do to us to sway us from our walk in harmony with God is a deterrent to our faith and can over time, if we keep choosing to let those things bother us instead of just putting a smile on our face and not let the evil win today, lead us down the path opposite of our purpose. We choose to laugh, to cry, to get angry, etc. Choose wisely!

### **James 1:2-5 (ESV)**

#### *Testing of Your Faith*

<sup>2</sup> *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,* <sup>3</sup> *for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.* <sup>4</sup> *And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* <sup>5</sup> *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*