

An Unexpected Source of Spiritual Joy

I say “unexpected”, because what we are being schooled in is not what believers expect to be their source of joy. For example:

*“I long for you to come to me day after day, asking for guidance. It brings me great joy to see you longing to be moved by the impulses of my Spirit and not your own understanding. I will lead you in the ways of my holy ones. I will guide you with my joyous eyes resting upon you. Look into my face, and the brightness of my love will make your path clear. I am aware of all that you need and all that I have promised. I will meet every need. **My loving guidance will be your joy.**”¹*

The church taught us that “the joy of the Lord is our strength”, and we believed it. But for myself, I couldn’t work out what the Lord’s joy was – that’s what the quote was referring to. I saw most Christians full of joy in worship time, singing, clapping and dancing, but not during the following week. That got me thinking about where this ‘Lord’s’ joy really was.

It wasn’t ‘til the past 5 years that I’ve come to know where his joy resides. Through experience, it’s a combination of these:

- Contentment in his love
- All needs being met
- All circumstances under his oversight
- A secure future

These aren’t emotional feelings that bring internal joy, that comes from peace, contentment and rest. I can’t explain it, but it’s not enthusiasm², because that doesn’t last. It’s something intangible that comes from all things being in their right place and in order in my life. That’s what’s going on inside me, not necessarily what’s going on around me.

More recently, I’ve come to the point of drawing joy and peace from the King’s life inside me. I can’t remember why I started doing it, but it’s what I do all the time now. I’m relying on him to meet all my personal needs, and that includes my need for his joy and peace.

That’s all a different take on joy, to be sure. I leave it with you to explore how Father can provide joy for you, so you can feel it in your spirit, not in your emotions.

IMPORTANT: Being happy is not joy. Happiness is dependent on externals, not life that comes from your Internal Kingdom. That’s where “the joy of the Lord” can be accessed.

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

1 – Brian Simmons (12-7-2021) “I Hear His Whisper...” “My loving guidance will be your joy.” [distributed e-newsletter] mailchi.mp/broadstreetpublishing/00000-618362?e=3ca23beeed OR us10.campaign-archive.com/?u=8c3eb957a5ad87253d475a511&id=c7c83e98b5

2 – ORIGIN: “In God”