

JOY IN THE ADVENTURE

Intro: Upward Mobility & Downward Mobility

I. God's ultimate "If/Then":

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:1-4

- IF... you've experienced...
 - A. Any encouragement from being united with Christ.
 - B. Any comfort from his love
 - C. Fellowship with the Spirit
 - D. Any tenderness and compassion
- THEN...
 - A. Make my joy complete by being like-minded,
 - B. Do nothing out of selfish ambition
 - C. Look not to just your own interests, but the interests of others.

II. Live with this attitude:

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Philippians 2:5-8

- Ultimate Christmas story; creator takes position of creature. Not a lesser God...but simply one of his creations; not only that, but as a servant.
- But Paul says JOY is J-Jesus; O-others; Y-you

III. We'll finally come to believe!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11

- "See you at the top!"
- "Meet you at the bottom!"

Study Guide Living With An Attitude October 15, 2006

Monday -- The joy of God came to focus in human history in Jesus Christ. The note of joy and exultation runs through the entire biblical account of the coming of Christ (Luke 1:14, 44; Matt. 2:10). The most familiar passage is the angel's announcement of "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" (Luke 2:10). Jesus spoke of His own joy and of the full joy He had come to bring to others (John 15:11; 17:13). He illustrated the kingdom of heaven by telling of the joy of a man who found treasure (Matt. 13:44). Zacchaeus was in a tree when Jesus called him, but he quickly climbed down and received Jesus joyfully (Luke 19:6). He had found life's ultimate treasure in Christ.

Tuesday -- As Jesus' death approached, He told His followers that soon they would be like a woman in labor, whose sorrow would be turned into joy (John 16:20-22). Later they understood, when the dark sorrow of the cross gave way to the joy of the resurrection (Luke 24:41). Viewed from this perspective, eventually they came to see that the cross itself was necessary for the joy to become real (Heb. 12:2). Because of His victory and the promise of His abiding presence, the disciples could rejoice even after the Lord's ascension (Luke 24:52).

Wednesday -- The Book of Acts tells how joy continued to characterize those who followed Jesus. After Philip preached in Samaria, the people believed and "there was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:8). After the work of Paul and Barnabas in Antioch of Pisidia, "the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 13:52). Paul and Barnabas reported such conversions to other believers, "and they caused great joy unto all the brethren" (Acts 15:3). After the conversion of the Philippian jailer, he "rejoiced, believing in God with all his house" (Acts 16:34).

Thursday -- Joy in the Christian life is in direct proportion as believers walk with the Lord. They can rejoice because they are in the Lord (Phil. 4:4). Joy is a fruit of a Spirit-led life (Gal. 5:22). Sin in a believer's life robs the person of joy (Ps. 51:8, 12). Ask yourself honestly, "Is there some sin in my life that is robbing me of real joy?" If so, go to God in prayer and confess it. The Bible promises God will receive you with joy! When a person walks with the Lord, the person can continue to rejoice even when troubles come. Jesus spoke of those who could rejoice even when persecuted and killed (Matt. 5:12). Paul wrote of rejoicing in suffering because of the final fruit that would result (Rom. 5:3-5). Both Peter and James also echoed the Lord's teachings about rejoicing in troubles (1 Pet. 1:6-8; Jas. 1:2).

Friday -- Joy in the Lord enables people to enjoy all that God has given. They rejoice in family (Prov. 5:18), food (1 Tim. 4:4-5), celebrations (Deut. 16:13-15), fellowship (Phil. 4:1). They share with other believers the joys and sorrows of life: "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, weep with them that weep" (Rom. 12:15). As you have learned, 'joy' is both a cause and a result of Christian maturity. If you haven't yet signed up for 'Class 201' (a 4 hour class on how Trietsch understands Christian Discipleship and Spiritual Maturity), do it right now!