

INSIGHT

I. The Triune God is a God of joy:

A. Romans 15:13 says, “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace”:

- **THIS INDICATES THAT JOY IS ONE OF GOD’S ATTRIBUTES.**
- **GOD IS THE GOD OF ENJOYMENT.**
- In our experience, if we enjoy God as grace, we will have peace, and if we have peace, we will have joy.

B. **CHRIST IS ALSO JOY TO THE BELIEVERS:**

- In John 15:11 the Lord said, “These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full.”
- The context of this verse is the Lord’s word concerning the vine and the branches.
- For us to be branches of the divine vine is a matter of joy—a joyful life.
- **OUR JOY ALWAYS COMES FROM OUR ABIDING IN THE LORD, FROM OUR ABIDING IN HIS LOVE.**
- It is in this kind of life that we are full of joy.
- **THIS JOY IS CHRIST HIMSELF;** when He abides in us, His joy abides in us to be the source of our joy that our joy may abound and become full and that we may live our days with joy.

C. **THERE IS JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT—Rom. 14:17:**

- God wants us to enjoy Him and live for His purpose—Neh. 8:10; Eph. 3:11.
- The Triune God is a God of joy, and the apostles are fellow workers with the saints for their joy—Rom. 15:13; John 15:11; 17:13; Acts 13:52; Gal. 5:22; 2 Cor. 1:24; Phil. 1:25; 2:17-18.
- **WE MAY EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF THE LORD’S WORD BEING IN OUR HEART—Jer. 15:16.**
- A sweet thought revealed in the Word of God is that in Christ God has given Himself to us as grace to be our enjoyment—John 1:14, 16-17; 2 Cor. 13:14:
 - In the first reference in the Bible to God’s relationship with man, God presents Himself to man as food; this shows that God wants us to enjoy Him—Gen. 2:7, 9; Psalms. 16:11; Jer. 15:16.
 - God’s desire is to give Himself to us to be our enjoyment—Neh. 8:10.
 - **THE SECRET TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT HOW MUCH WE WORK FOR HIM BUT HOW MUCH WE ABSORB HIM AND ENJOY HIM—John 15:4-5; Col. 2:6-7.**

II. The joy of the Triune God is becoming our joy:

A. IN HIS PERSON CHRIST IS OUR JOY:

- If we abide in the Lord and keep abiding in Him by abiding in His love, we will be filled with joy—John 15:10-11.
- The Lord is recovering the matters that have been missed among most Christians, and **ENJOYING THE LORD IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE MATTERS**—1 Pet. 1:8.
- The matter of eating and enjoying the Lord is based on John 6:57.
- The Christian living is a life of eating, drinking, and enjoying the Lord day by day—John 6:57; 1 Cor. 10:4.
- In order for us to be faithful, normal, and proper Christians, the primary matter that we need to take care of is enjoying the Lord; this needs to be a vision to us—Prov. 29:18; Acts 26:19.
- **OUR SPIRIT NEEDS TO TAKE THE LEAD IN ENJOYING THE LORD**—Heb. 4:12:
 - We must learn to directly use our spirit and let the soul be a follower of the spirit.
 - Our spirit must take the lead aggressively in enjoying the Lord.
- In His prayer to the Father, the Son said, “Now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world that they may have My joy made full in themselves” — John 17:13:
 - The fullness of joy is in the real oneness.
 - When we are one in the Father’s name by the Father’s life, enjoying the Father together, we will have the Lord’s joy made full in us.

B. IN THE CHURCH AS THE KINGDOM OF THE SON OF GOD’S LOVE, WE EXPERIENCE AND ENJOY CHRIST IN HIS ALL-INCLUSIVENESS—Col. 1:12-13, 27; 2:9, 16-17; 3:1, 4, 11:

- Christ is our allotted portion, our good land—the divine inheritance for our enjoyment—Col. 1:12.
- Christ is the reality of every positive thing in the universe—Col. 2:16-17.
- Christ is the One sitting at the right hand of God—Col. 3:1; Christ dwells in us as our hope of glory—Col. 1:27.
- Christ is our life—Col. 3:4; Christ is the constituent of the one new man—Col. 3:10-11.

C. According to 1 Peter 1:8, the believers “exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory”:

- This joy is immersed in the Lord as glory; thus, it is full of the expression of the Lord.
- By believing into the Lord and loving Him, we obtain great joy.
- The normal condition of a Christian is to have joy that is full of glory.

D. Enjoying the Lord has many aspects, such as the joy of the Lord’s presence, the joy of living in the divine romance, the joy of the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity, the joy of drinking of the river of God’s pleasures, the joy of knowing God’s love, the joy of doing God’s will, the joy of contentment in all circumstances, and entering into the joy of the Lord in the kingdom—Psa. 16:11; S. S. 1:1-4; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 3:14-21; Psa. 46:4a; 36:8b; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 8:38-39; Psa. 40:8a; Phil. 4:11; Matt. 25:21, 23.

E. A Christian should be a joyful person—joyful in the Spirit—Gal. 5:22:

- The Lord is our joy when we are in Him—Rom. 14:17.
- When we are abiding in the Lord, no matter what problem we have, we are joyful, and any difficulty deepens our joy in the Lord—John 15:4.
- The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of joy—Rom. 14:17:
 - If we are joyful, this indicates that the Holy Spirit in us is also joyful—Gal. 5:22.
 - There may be nothing in the outward environment to make us joyful, but the Lord who lives in us is our joy—Col. 1:27.

INSIGHT

I. The Triune God is a God of joy

- Rom.15:13 indicates that joy is one of God’s attributes. God is the God of enjoyment. In our experience, if we enjoy God as grace, we will have peace, and if we have peace, we will have joy.
- Christ is also joy to the believers. In John 15:11 the Lord’s word concerning the vine and the branches shows for us to be branches of the divine vine is joyful life, coming from our abiding in the Lord and in His love. This joy is Christ Himself; when He abides in us, His joy abides in us to be the source of our joy that our joy may abound and become full and that we may live our days with joy.
- We can also experience the joy in the Holy Spirit as the Lord’s word being in our heart. The Triune God, a God of joy, wants us to enjoy Him and live for His purpose. The Word of God sweetly reveals that in Christ God has given Himself to us as grace to be our enjoyment. In Gen. 2:9 God presents Himself to man as food showing that God’s desire is to give Himself to us to be our enjoyment. The secret to the Christian life is not how much we work for Him but how much we absorb Him and enjoy Him. [Rom. 15:13] Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing... [John 15:10] If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. [John 15:11] These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full. [Rom. 14:17] For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. [Gal. 5:22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace... [Jer. 15:16] Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart...

EXPERIENCE

II. The joy of the Triune God is becoming our joy

- In His person Christ is our joy when we: abide and keep abiding in The Lord by abiding in His love; eat, drink and enjoy the Lord day by day; have the vision that the primary matter that we need to take care of is enjoying the Lord; use our spirit directly in enjoying the Lord, take the lead aggressively, and let the soul be a follower; are one in the Father’s name by the Father’s life, enjoy the Father together, that we will have the Lord’s joy made full in us in the real oneness.
- In the church as the kingdom of the Son of God’s love, we experience and enjoy Christ in His all-inclusiveness as: our allotted portion, the divine inheritance for our enjoyment; the reality of every positive thing in the universe; the One sitting at the right hand of God and dwells in us as our hope of glory; our life; and the constituent of the one new man.
- 1 Peter 1:8 says by believing into the Lord and loving Him, we obtain the joy that is immersed in the Lord as glory, that we exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory.
- Enjoying the Lord has many aspects, such as the joy of: the Lord’s presence; living in the divine romance; the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity; drinking of the river of God’s pleasures; knowing God’s love; doing God’s will; contentment in all circumstances; and entering into the joy of the Lord in the kingdom.
- A Christian should be a joyful person as the Lord is our joy when we are in Him. No matter what problem we have, we are joyful, and any difficulty deepens our joy in the Lord. There may be nothing in the outward environment to make us joyful, but the Lord who lives in us is our joy. The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of joy, we are joyful in the Spirit. [John 6:57] ...so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me. [Heb. 4:12] For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart. [Luke 1:46-47] And Mary said, My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has exulted in God my Savior. [Col. 3:11] ...Christ is all and in all. [1 Pet. 1:8] Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory. [S.S. 1:2] Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! / For your love is better than wine. [Eph. 3:17] That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith... [Matt. 25:21] His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master. [Phil. 4:11] Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.

Jeremiah 15:16a says, “Your words were found and I ate them, / And Your word became to me / The gladness and joy of my heart.” When we find the Lord’s words, we should not only know them but eat them, so that they become both the gladness and the joy. Gladness and joy imply singing; we have joy within and singing as our rejoicing without.

<Excerpts from “Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life”, Chapter 13, “Contacting The Lord by reading the Word and Praying”>

Christians, as a rule, must be joyful persons; they must be persons who are full of joy at all times. Sometimes we are so full of joy that we feel we will burst unless we shout “Hallelujah!” “Praise the Lord!” or “Amen!” Sometimes we are so full of joy that our silence must cease and we must bubble over by speaking. As Christians, we should not be so silent. Because we are so full of the current, flowing, and bubbling of the divine life within us, instead of being quiet, we must shout and speak. You will find that the more you express what is flowing within, the more the fellowship of life will flow within you. This is what it is to be a Christian in the fellowship of the divine life.

<Excerpts from “Experiencing Christ as the Inner Life”, Chapter 2, “The fellowship of life and the light of life”>