

## Another Spoonful of Joy to Begin a New Year



As we begin a new year on our calendar, it is a good thing to reflect on JOY. Joy is not the same as happiness, though it can produce happiness. It is not about partying or even jumping around in “church”, often pretending to be happy and pretending all is well with the world.

All is not well with the world. It is in chaos. But answers to every situation lie in the heart of God. And we can have them if we desire them. Joy comes from the heart and is only available in the heart of God. Let’s look at Psalms 21 today. It gives us a good idea of what joy really is.

***O Lord the king will delight in Your strength, And in Your salvation how greatly will he rejoice! Psalm 21:1 (AMP)***

David wrote this psalm while he was king. The King James Version translates the word “delight” used in this version as “joy”. King David found joy and delight seeing the strength and salvation of God in his behalf. God was stronger than any of David’s enemies who were continually coming against him. He saved him from disaster. He freed him and brought liberty to him.

Salvation is deliverance. You can never be delivered from something, if you do not face things where you need deliverance. It may be finances. It may be people coming against you. Maybe, it is habits that you can’t seem to break. It could be a dozen other reasons.

David, at one point in his life, came back from a trip with his men and found that the enemy had burned the city and taken the women captive, even two of David’s wives. They wept until they could weep no more. The story is found in I Samuel chapter 30.

David was distressed. There was no joy. The men blamed David. They wanted to stone him. There was bitterness of soul. In the middle of all this David does something that gives him a breakthrough.

***David was greatly distressed, for the people talked of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in spirit, each over his sons and daughters. But David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. I Samuel 30:6 (MEV)***

The Hebrew word for encouraged means “to bind strongly, to tie, adhesively bond”. When David faced this horrible situation, he glued himself to God. Yes, he wept and went through a string of human emotions, but he knew the only thing to do next was step over into a place of JOY. He needed to find God’s heart for this situation and to do so, He needed to have God’s presence permeate his very being. He needed to fasten himself tightly to God.

The picture I see, is like a small child throwing their arms around their father’s neck, and wrapping their legs around his waist. They are holding tight to their father, and he is holding them. Nothing but pure love! That is a picture of being in God’s presence and sticking like glue to the Father.

**For You make him most blessed [and a blessing] forever; You make him joyful with the joy of Your presence. *Psalm 21:6 (AMP)***

David, in writing this psalm, told us where JOY lives. It lives in God’s presence. That is where God showers us with His blessings and also makes us to be a blessing to others. In God’s presence, it is not a place for hiding from the world or the things we face. It is rather, a place of rest, where God is in control and you get to participate with Him in bringing righteousness to an unrighteous situation. You get to work with God to make right what is wrong.

David encouraged himself in the Lord. He entered God’s presence. In that place, there was no more room for defeat. God gave David the plans to make things right. If you read the next few verses in I Samuel 30, you find what David did next.

***And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelek, “Please bring the ephod to me.” So Abiathar brought the ephod to David. I Samuel 30:6 (MEV)***

Although Abiathar was a priest at this time it is unclear if he was the high priest. Ahimelek, his father, may have been the high priest. Priests wore a simple garment called the ephod, but high priests wore the ephod with other distinctions. The high priest wore a breastplate over the ephod with the Urim and Thummim. The breastplate represented judgement (discernment). The Urim and Thummim were used to determine God’s will in a particular situation.

In the next few verses, we find that David sought God as to how to bring justice to the situation, so it seems obvious that this was the high priest garment. David needed an answer concerning what to do about the situation he faced.

Consider this also. David is not yet crowned king over Judah or Israel, but he has been anointed as king by the prophet Samuel. The high priest garment is brought to David. Our high priest is Jesus. Jesus brings to David an anointing that is needed. Now David is operating in both the king and the priestly anointing and the first thing he does is get directions from God.

***David inquired at the Lord, saying, “Should I pursue after this raiding party? Will I overtake them?” And He answered him, “Pursue them, for you will surely overtake them and will surely recover all.” I Samuel 30:8 (MEV)***

David has now stepped over into joy. His distress is gone. He has an answer from God and he knows all is well. The rest of the chapter describes David's victory over his enemy. Not only did he recover what was lost, but he took home the spoils of war.

We are called to be priests and kings in the kingdom of God. We go to the King of kings and our High Priest for directions. We come into His presence and receive direction and confirmation that God is in this with you and you will come out victorious. From that place we operate in JOY and rest. We are agents of God and we operate in both the heavenly and the earthly realm. We operate in both the spiritual and the natural realm, priests and kings.

Back to Psalms 21.

***For the king trusts in the Lord, and because of the Most High's faithfulness he is not shaken. You prevail over all your enemies; your power is too great for those who hate you. Psalm 21:7,8 (NET)***

Joy comes when we trust God and His faithfulness no matter what situation we face. We trust that He is more powerful than anything we face. He is stronger than any enemy that raises its ugly head against us. If He is for us, who can be against us? That is the place JOY comes from. Yes, there may be some tears and some stress at first, until we learn to enter His presence immediately and grab hold of that JOY that is available to us. It truly is available for us to walk in step by step.

The most important thing we must learn is how to hear His voice and to quiet our souls so we can hear it clearly. He has an answer for every situation we face. He knows how to make every wrong situation right, not only in our individual lives or our families, but also in our cities and our countries, as well.

If we are to make any new year's resolutions, let us to resolve to:

- When situations look bad, enter the presence of God as quickly as possible until we find ourselves walking in it continually
- Enter into that place of JOY where we are so glued to God that we know He will do what He says He will do
- Listen more intently for the voice of God on what actions we should take then obey
- Understand more clearly that when we are faced with a situation that is wrong, or clearly out of line with the will of God, God has a plan to make it right
- Realize that we have a part in the making it right as we operate in the priest and king anointing
- From a place of JOY understand more clearly God's plan for our lives, as well as our cities and countries

## Happy New Year from Joy Mountain Ranch

- Cry less and be in distress less, glue ourselves to God and His plan to liberate us from the problem more quickly
- Understand true righteousness and justice more clearly, and operate in it more often than ever before

Happy New Year, Ekklesia.

