



The 3 Rs Concept for Christian Living, Lesson #9

Reminiscing, Reminders, Recollections, Reflections...and Rejoicing!

2 Peter 3:1-10, "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles."

Isaiah 49:15-16, "Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. "Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me."

C H R I S T M A S— just a holiday??

We celebrate Christmas; but, what does it mean to you?

- **Santa Claus is coming to town??**
- **Gifts under the tree??**
- **Carols sung??**
- **Mistletoe kisses??**
- **Egg Nog and parties??**
- **Baking Cookies??**
- **Family coming over and everyone overeating??**
- **Knock yourself out shopping??**
- **Watching "It's a Wonderful Life."**
- **Not going to work...just hanging out with the family??**
- **Getting mad at the Japanese and Chinese for selling such cheap lights of which half work and half don't??**

Or, you check them and they work before placing on the house or tree...and you plug them in after delicately placing in just the right spot...and they don't come on??

Typical Christmas at my house!!

Mumble, grumble...I feel like the Grinch!

Does Christmas mean more than the above??

Well, tell us about it!

Reminiscing the Good Memories at Christmas.

As we reflect on the good thoughts and reminders of Christmas, do you have a special Christmas you remember?

(Your story)

What is important to remember about Christmas?

Lamentations 3:21-24, “This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. The LORD’S loving kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, says my soul, therefore I have hope in Him.”

Psalms 103:1-2, “Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits...”

- **A Miracle of Miracles...One who is a miracle, did miracles, and continues to do miracles for the glory of God.**
The baby Jesus...born of a virgin...at just the appointed time.
Why then and not now?
 - ✓ *Fulfilling Scripture was and is God’s plan all the time. This is so because what God has promised, He will fulfill.*
God, the Father, does not die...nor does He lie!
 - ✓ *The birth of Jesus brings new birth...the born again experience.*
 - ✓ *He prepared the way to heaven...He is preparing for our arrival.*
- **A Memorial to Mankind...Either accepted or rejected, Jesus is a memorial to the sinner...**
 - ✓ **A sinner who remains in his sin due to poor choices**
 - ✓ **A sinner saved by grace...due to a full pardon through faith in the Miracle Worker, Jesus!**

Rejoicing Upon our Remembrances of What the Lord Has Done....With Joy in Our Heart!

Since the early 1920’s believers have been singing this chorus, written by George Willis Cook. “I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart...”

We all desire to have joy in our life.

Joy, like any other attitude, can come and go. It is not guaranteed simply because we are believers.

- *We must put ourselves in the places where experiencing joy is a possibility.*
- *Studying joy in Scripture helps build an understanding of how to put ourselves in places where it is possible to find and maintain an attitude of joy.*

According to Dictionary.com, joy is “the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying.”

The Christian definition of Joy is...”Setting the soul upon the top of a pinnacle; it is the cream of the sincere milk of the Word. Spiritual joy is a sweet and delightful passion, arising from the apprehension and feeling of some good, whereby the soul is supported under present troubles and fenced against future fear.” – Patti M. Hummel,

“Joy is seeing a baby being held by its mother, a father holding the mother’s hand with tears of joy in his eyes, the Word of God becoming flesh making it possible for man to be born again, and man lifting hands in repentance to the God who made him.” Gerald Cumby

Here is what we learn from what the Bible says about joy.

1. Joy is not an emotion that can be forced, fabricated, or faked.

There are times when joy eludes us. This is normal and we need to understand that there are times when we will not feel joyful. Yet, it is important that joy cannot be forced. Yet, joy is not just a feeling; it is an experience, an action, and a way of life.

2. Joy is not dependent upon our circumstance

We can be in a difficult situation and yet experience joy. Jesus said, “Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven.– Luke 6:22-23 (NIV)

3. Joy is possible when we feel secure in the Lord.

“Many, Lord, are asking, “Who will bring us prosperity?” Let the light of your face shine on us. Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound. In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety”. – Psalm 4:6-8

While others link their happiness to prosperity, believers can find joy in the Lord. Paul wrote, “Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say again, be full of joy. Let everyone see that you are gentle and kind. The Lord is coming soon” Philippians 4:4-5 (NCV).

4. Joy comes when we have a clear direction for our life.

You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. – Psalm 16:11 (NIV)

“Jesus said, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field’ ” – Matthew 13:44 (NIV).

Where is your hidden treasure? What is the path of life that God has for you? Are you seeking the fields for the treasure that God has for you?

Reflect on the JOY of the LORD this Christmas Season!

[Acts 11:15-18](#), "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' "Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"



Sherry and I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

“Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.” Corrie Ten Boo