

Fullness of Joy

Matthew 13:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

Luke 2:10 (NKJV)

Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.”

John 15:9-11 (NKJV)

⁹ “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

It’s clear that one of the intents of the Father, when He sent His Son, was to give us fullness of joy!

John 17:9-13 (NKJV)

⁹ “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as *We are*. ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

When Jesus prayed to God for all of us He prayed that we would have His fullness of joy.

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John 17:13 (AMP)

¹³And now I am coming to You; I say these things while I am still in the world, so that My joy may be made full and complete and perfect in them [that they may experience My delight fulfilled in them, that My enjoyment may be perfected in their own souls, that they may have My gladness within them, filling their hearts].

The very last prayer Jesus Christ prayed with His original 11 faithful disciples before His crucifixion included a appeal to God on high that those that His Father choose to be part of Jesus' family would live to experience to completion of His supernatural joy deep with in their hearts. As the Amplified Bible expresses "My enjoyment may be perfected in their own souls"

This completion may not be existing in you at the moment. You may feel it has eluded you. You may feel unqualified, unworthy or incapable of achieving this lofty moment in you life.

Thank God it's not about you or me!

It's a prayer of from Jesus Christ, the creator of the universe; to His and our Father whom He has perfect communication with and harmonious desire. Everything that Jesus wanted was what God our Father wanted Him to want. Jesus Christ was praying God's will back to Him! God is not thwarted or frustrated or ultimately disappointed. He wins in the end and gets what His plan was destined to bring about! So, this fullness of joy isn't just His will it is His promise! We should live our lives expecting God to fulfill His promises, right? Then this fullness of joy is meant to be ours! It's not a matter of "if" it is a matter of when as long as we keep seeking His kingdom purpose! God keeps His promises. Jesus wouldn't offer up a frivolous prayer that "MIGHT" happen. He didn't say He would TRY to give us some joy along the way in our struggle with life. He promised us fullness of joy and we can bank on it that He will put it on our path as we walk in His Spirit day-by-day.

His joy, which is to be our strength, is a worthy goal for all whom call themselves "Christian" and it is a great reward for those that diligently seek Him, day-by-day and moment-by-moment.

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When will He bring it? If it's meant to be completed in our lives do we just sit and wait for it, doing nothing as if it were some fate we could not avoid? No. We can avoid it by avoiding Jesus. If we refuse to make Jesus Lord of our entire lives we are unavailable to Him to give us this gift.

If our lives are so full of people, things and activities that we are choosing instead of choosing Him to try to fulfill ourselves we become unavailable to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit to do in us what is needed to make a place where we can receive and experience His great joy.

It's like a garden that you want to be a place where you grow your favorite flower. As any gardener will tell you there is a lot of work involved with preparing and maintaining a garden. If fullness of joy to you was enjoying your favorite flower in your perfect garden you would work long and hard to find the right place with the right kind of light then dig down deep in that earth and remove the stones or roots that would interfere with the new roots of your special flower. There would be weeding and clearing and fertilizing and arranging other plants that give the perfect environment for your flower. Some people study and read about their flower so they do it just right.

Only after you have done all the work to prepare the place for your flower do you plant the seed or bulb and water it and continue to weed and wait. In time God works His miraculous wonder and before you know it there are leaves and then buds and then blossoms. It's not instantaneous! You must work and work and wait and work while you're waiting. It's not easy.

Our spiritual life is very similar. It takes work to blossom spiritually. We start out totally clueless that we can even have a spiritual life. When it's introduced to us we're ambivalent! You might say, "Who cares!?" Then the Holy Spirit starts to trouble you; *you care* so you start to look into it. Some people feel they need to try every religion in the book and find the "best one" but the seeking begins, prompted by the Holy Spirit. Then you find Jesus and are forgiven!

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It's like picking the place to plant your flower, it's just a beginning! You may just stay stuck at being forgiven for a very long time because you have to be forgiven again and again and again! But sooner or later you want to do something with this new freedom you have received from the Lord for carrying your years of guilt and condemnation. This new freedom energizes you and you look for ways to grow and move in this new faith relationship between you and Jesus Christ. For many there is a Holy discontent that you just don't know what God has for you. You know Him, you are growing in your faith day to day but there is something stirring inside that wants out! This Holy discontentment may cause you now to explore within yourself, soul searching to see how God has wired you. It may seem impossible and you cry out to God broken before Him spilling your guts before His throne! You end up handing everything you thought you ever knew over to Him confessing your total inadequacy and you then receive the comfort, love and compassion for this all consuming God that has finally been given full reign in your heart!

Now you're ready for His fullness because you have emptied yourself of yourself and made room for His fullness. Now His love is your love; His best is all you want in every situation. If it's not from God you don't want it. Now His joy that is in you is your joy and **He** will be your fullness of joy.

Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)

You will show me the path of life;

In Your presence is fullness of joy;

At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Finding that fullness of joy is rare because few people are willing to do the hard work of digging down deep and preparing the garden of their heart; keeping up with weeding of repentance and forgiveness and spending the time tending their relationship with the author and finisher of their faith in His word and in prayer, so that we can dwell in His presence full time.