

## Answers to Questions Part 3

### “What is the Joy of the Lord?”

#### I Peter 1:3-9

“I am being sanctified by the grace of God; my life has been set apart to live for His glory”

**Introduction:** This morning we will continue our series of answers to questions.

- A. We have lots of questions and I am afraid that sometimes I am guilty of asking questions that really make no difference if I know the answers.
- B. Then at times I believe we continue to ask God questions that He has plainly already answered if I will but first accept the answer and second live out the answer for His glory.
  - Dr. Seuss once said, Questions are often complicated and the answer simple.

= For this series I having been searching God not just answers but seeking out the questions that we should be ask.

- **We ask the question:** Is there a resurrection?
  - God answers according to His word and promise and power there is a life beyond this life in the flesh.
- **We ask the Question:** What are we supposed to be doing?
  - God answers to Love Him with all of our heart, our mind and our soul, and to love your neighbor as yourself.

=This morning I would like to examine the answer to another question “What is Joy”

- We are supposed to have it.
- God has given it to us.
- God has even commanded us to embrace it.

= But what is it?

--- Let's look at our text this morning READ I Peter 1:3-9

**Transition:** Let's look together this morning at Peter's words concerning Joy to answer the question What is the Joy that God wants for my life.

- First Peter enlightens us as to the origin of Joy.

## I. The Origin of Joy Verse 5-6a (7-8) READ

A. It is clear and evident that joy originates with faith. "protected by the power of God through faith." "In this you greatly rejoice"

1. It is by this faith, which comes from God, which brings joy to the hearts of believers.

- And as God increases our faith in Him through His word "Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the word of God" we obtain an inheritance.
- Verse 4 to obtain an (A)inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and (B)will not fade away, (C)reserved in heaven for you.

B. In Contrast to the teaching of the world and even some churches today **the joy of the Lord does not originate with:**

1. **Money:** Does money make us happy of course it does!

- The person who said that money cannot buy happiness is wrong it can and it does the problem is not that money can't make man happy the problem is that it does.
- But money cannot buy Joy: Joy can only be experienced through faith in Christ and unlike money faith never loses its value, it can never be stolen, and yes it may be persecuted but can never be taxed or taken away! Amen!
  2. (Go back to B.) **Worldly influence:** look around does it seem to you that the most influential people in the world are experiencing the joy of the Lord.
- It seems to me that worldly influence just breeds corruption and chaos the search for joy and peace is not going to be found our political leaders it can only be found in faith in Christ.
  3. (Go back to B.) **Success:** Joy cannot and does not come in worldly success.
- If success is measured by the world even if you have it all of your life you will still die.
- But joy that comes from faith in Christ does not end when we die it **“reserved in heaven for you”** it never ends it only increases with our faith.

**Transition: So inside our question of what is joy we found the answer in scripture where joy comes from it originates from faith in Jesus Christ and increases as He gives us faith through His Word.**

- A. Peter then tells us of the Nature of Joy:
1. It is indescribable!

## II. The Nature of Joy Verse 8

A. Peter describes the joy the Lord as indescribable “inexpressible”

1. It does not leave us much to say about the nature of the joy of the Lord because there are no words to describe it.

■ **There are no words to describe it because there is nothing in the world like it.**

- The joy of the world will not last it will not stand the test of time so we use the word temporary, or fleeting to describe it.

➤ But how do you describe something that has no end that is bound up in the everlasting infinite God.

- The joy of the world is based on life circumstances and so ebbs and flows depending on what going on around us.

➤ But how do you describe a joy that nothing, no circumstance of life can affect because God is faithful.

- The joy of the world can be stolen away by man some kill joy that just doesn't like the idea that you are happy.

➤ But how do you express a joy that belongs to the sovereignty of a Holy God that no one or nothing can separate us from:

- Romans 8:35 **Who will separate us from (A)the love of (B)Christ? Will (C)tribulation, or distress, or (D)persecution, or (E)famine, or (F)nakedness, or (G)peril, or sword?**

= The Joy that we experience by its very nature cannot be expressed by man because it is not of man it is something that is experienced by those that God has sovereignty called into His family through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Transition: We ask the question, an important question a question that when God answer it changes our lives: What is the Joy of the Lord?**

=The answer is that it is experienced by Faith in Christ

= The answer is that the nature of it is such that it cannot be explained in human terms because it does not come from anything that man has to offer.

= And # 3 the answer to the question What is the Joy of the Lord is that it is full of the glory of God!

### III. Full of Glory verse 8

A. Jonathan Edwards wrote in describing this verse: “This joy filled the minds of the Christians, as it were, with a glorious brightness.

1. Church the joys of the world: Money, Power, Popularity, influence they corrupt the mind but the joy of the Lord fills the heart and the mind with God’s glory.

B. In the original language the term full of glory is the word “doxazo” from a root word of “doxa” to glory but it means to be full of honor or full of the glory of God.

1. The joy of the Lord is to experience or to exercise all glory, all honor, all praise, all respect, all faith to God through faith and a walk in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ!

= Look back with me at verses 7-8-9 so that the <sup>(A)</sup>proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, <sup>(B)</sup>even though tested by fire, <sup>(C)</sup>may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at <sup>(D)</sup>the revelation of Jesus Christ;

and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

- What fills the joy of the believer is the faith from God in His Son that no matter what life brings us we have a relationship with a Holy God through Christ!

**Closing:** So now our question would naturally turn to how do I get some Joy how do I acquire this inexpressible gift from God?

A. Truth is we cannot go get, the Joy that man affords to man we cannot merit or do anything to get it is a gift from God.

1. What we can do is by faith embrace it.

- Believe God we he says that he loves you
- Believe God we he say that while you were a sinner he died for you
- Believe God that he has already filled you with the joy of the Lord!

= There a lot of questions that we ask many the answer do not have any effect on our lives.

- But what happens when our search for Joy is answered will we believe the answer that only by faith can we truly experience true joy.
- Or we continue to call ourselves believers but search the world over to find answer to a question that God has already answered?