

# Mixed Blessings: Being Joyful When in Sorrow

1Peter 1:3-7

# 1 Peter 1:3-7

- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ”

# Being Joyful When in Sorrow

- Joy follows love in the fruit of the Spirit
  - Gal. 5:22 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness”
- We are commanded to be joyful
  - 1Thes. 5:16 - “Rejoice always”
  - Phil. 4:4 - “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”

# Being Joyful When in Sorrow

- Being joyful is a command, implying:
  - That we have the capacity to keep it
  - That keeping it is a choice not dependent on circumstances

# We rejoice out of gratitude for what God *has* done

- Acts 8:39 - “Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.”
- Col. 1:13-14 - “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

# We rejoice out of gratitude for what God *has* done

- Eph. 1:3-7 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”

# We rejoice out of gratitude for what God *has* done

- Eph. 3:20-21 - “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

# We rejoice out of gratitude for what God *has* done

- Matt. 6:25-33
- Psalm 37:25 - “I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.”



# We rejoice out of gratitude for what God *is* doing

- Fellowship

- 1John 1:3-7 - “That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. 5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

# We rejoice out of gratitude for what God *is* doing

- Fellowship

- Heb. 10:24-25 - “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

# We rejoice out of gratitude for what God *is* doing

- 1Tim. 2:5 - “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus”
- Heb. 4:15-16 - “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

# We rejoice out of gratitude for what God *is* doing

- Heb. 10:19-22 - “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

# We rejoice out of gratitude for what God *is* doing

- 1Peter 3:12 - “For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”
- 1John 4:4 - “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”
- Rom. 12:12 - “Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer”

# We rejoice out of gratitude for what God *will do*

- Rev. 7:9-17
- 1Peter 5:7 - “Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”
- Rom. 8:31-39

# Being Joyful When in Sorrow

- Our joy is based on the wonderful things God has done, is doing, and will do for us.
- Have those things changed, diminished, or disappeared?
- Then our joy in them should likewise remain steadfast.

# Being Joyful When in Sorrow

- Matt. 13:44-46 - “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. 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”



# Being Joyful When in Sorrow

- If rejoicing should come naturally to Christians, why does God command it?
- Christians become discouraged
  - They may not feel as if they're doing that well in their spiritual walk
  - They may be under serious trial: facing death in self or family, extended illness, financial burden, multiple setbacks
  - They may be discouraged by others, including brethren
  - They may just be weak or self pitying

# Being Joyful When in Sorrow

- We cannot control life's circumstances, but we can control how we react to life's circumstances

# Being Joyful When in Sorrow

- Acts 5:41 - “So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.”
- Acts 16:25 - “But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”
- 2Cor. 6:10 - “As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”
- 1Peter 1:8-9 - “Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.”

# Being Joyful When in Sorrow

- 1Peter 4:12-14 - “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.”

# Being Joyful When in Sorrow

- What are the common threads?
  - Each knew the hardship would end; the condition was not permanent -- sickness, pain, death, oppression are not forever
  - Each knew that there was more than one way of looking at the event -- it is not what you are looking at; it is what you see
  - Each chose to search, see, and select the good in the events
  - Each did something to manifest that choice

# Being Joyful When in Sorrow

- Remember Romans 8:31-39
  - No external force can separate us from the love of God
  - There is nothing we can experience that is so negative that we cannot maintain the joy of being one of the saved
  - There is no trial or temptation so great that it entirely obscures our view of Heaven, nor can it ever obscure God's view of us

# Being Joyful When in Sorrow

- We simply choose to be positive
  - Phil. 4:8 - “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.”

# Being Joyful When in Sorrow

- An attitude of joy is not automatic-- it must be desired, trained, and worked for
- Things will not always work out as we would like, but even in the worst of times, these things do not change:
  - God is at our side, and He will never leave us alone in our trials
  - The trial will come to an end
  - We get to choose whether we will be joyful or discouraged until it does end



# Being Joyful When in Sorrow

- Things will not always work out as we would like, but who can know all of the good that will come from allowing God to work it out His way
  - Ecc. 8:6-7 - “Because for every matter there is a time and judgment, Though the misery of man increases greatly. 7 For he does not know what will happen; So who can tell him when it will occur?”