



The Vintage Newsletter

“Seek the Presence of the Lord”

“Thou will show me the path of life; in your Presence there is fullness of joy and at your right hand there are pleasures forever more.” Psalms 16:11

Have you noticed lately there are too many unhappy saved people in the body of Christ? They are born again, baptized in the Holy Ghost but they are just unhappy, discouraged, sad and full of complaint, dissatisfied with no joy. Emotionally we are like roller coasters, if our circumstances are up we're riding the waves of glory but if our circumstances are down we have to look up only to see the bottom; up and down, down and up. Aren't you tired of being like a yo-yo Christian? I know I am!

Some of us, can only be happy and have joy when things are going our way, but the world can do that, so the question is how do I act or respond when things are not going my way. As believers we all want our circumstances to be up all the time, but Jesus did not promise you that. If you are waiting for every circumstance in your life to become perfect before you can have real spiritual joy, then you will never live in the joy that Jesus intended you to have. Jesus told his disciples in the world you will have tribulations but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world. St. John 16:33

The weakness of happiness is that it's based on what's happening with the latest event, style, hairdo, designer handbag, or CD. This type of happiness is based on your circumstances for spiritual Joy that is from the Holy Ghost flows from having a right relationship and intimate fellowship with the Lord. In His presence there is fullness of Joy. Joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and not the fruit of our circumstances. Joy is like living water that is constantly stirring in your soul. Joy in the Greek language is the word “Epainos” which means strengthen, energy, empower and to keep you from becoming discouraged. Praises operates by joy; joy operates by thanksgiving and thanksgiving and being grateful operates by the word of God.

The psalmist David said in 27:8 “One thing have I desired of the Lord and that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and enquire in his temple.” If you could ask the Lord for one thing what would it be? Not 5 things or 10 things but only one thing, what would it be? Would it be a husband, salvation for your children or grandchildren, job, healing in your body or peace in your mind? What would be that one thing you are seeking, is it the presence of the Lord? As believers we spend our time seeking the wrong thing. We seek carnal, temporary things and pleasures that never satisfy our soul. Seek means to require as your vital need. When the hospital takes your vital signs that means your life depends on it. Thus we must seek the presence of God as if our life depends on it. We must go after the Lord in a diligent pursuit or dogged determination.

Each believer has a God shaped hole in their soul that only the Lord can fulfill and when we seek carnal things we still come up empty, unfulfilled and disappointed. We spend our time seeking the hand of God instead of the face of God. For in His hands are P-R-E-S-E-N-T-S and in His face is His P-R-E-S-E-N-C-E. If we seek His face that will move his hand to give the provision we need. “In His Presence there is fullness of Joy and at His right hand there are pleasures forever more.”