

Joy in Life!

by Wayne Goff

The Lord gives the faithful Christian much to be joyful about in this life. I thought I would share some of these good things with our readers in this article.

1. **Finding the Truth is like finding hidden treasure.** There is nothing greater than to find the truth of the Gospel — the “Good News” (Romans 10) of salvation. Jesus used the analogy in Matthew 13:44 *“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.”* Finding salvation in Jesus is the greatest treasure one can find in this world!
2. **The hope of heaven is a great joy.** Jesus revealed to us that in the Judgment Day when the faithful are judged by Jesus, He will say to them *“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord”* (Matt. 25:23). Hearing these words by God in that great judgment day can bring no greater joy!
3. **Jesus’ resurrection caused great joy, Matthew 28:8.** *“So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.”* The Lord’s nearest, dearest friends and relatives on earth went from the lowest of lows when they saw the death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to the highest of highs hearing of His resurrection three days later! From despair to untold jubilation, these disciples experienced the greatest of both. For us today, Jesus’ resurrection is the foundation for our future resurrection hopes, 1 Cor. 15:20.
4. **Great joy accompanies gospel obedience, Acts 8:8.** When Philip the evangelist preached the gospel in the city of Samaria for the first time, men and women believed and were baptized. Then Luke records the response: *“And there was great joy in that city.”* **Why?** For all the reasons stated above.
5. **There is joy in finishing the Christian race faithfully.** The apostle Paul was torn between two choices in life: (1) dying and going home to be with Jesus, and (2) living, to be a help for others on this earth, Phil. 1:23-24. But as Paul’s life was constantly threatened, and brethren feared for his safety, he simply said: *“But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God,”* Acts 20:24. We know the feeling at the end of a job well done. Now imagine that feeling at the end of a well-lived life!
6. **There is joy and peace in true faith.** *“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,”* Rom. 15:13. Would to God that I could **make** the unbelieving world experience the same joy and peace that I have from believing and obeying the gospel! But no man can be convinced against his will. The gospel is God’s power to persuade men to be saved and to enjoy the life of faith!
7. **There is great joy in the company of faithful brethren.** *“That I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you,”* Rom. 15:32. While we enjoy the company of good people in the world, there is nothing so warm and rich as the company of those with whom you share a common faith, hope and love! (Read also 2 Corinthians 2:3, 8:1-2; Philippians 1:4; 2:2; 4:1)

There are many other “joys” in the Word of God. But let these mentioned ones comfort your heart in the midst of a sin-sick, dying world. This is not our home!

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