



Joy for Now and Eternity - 16

(1) WHAT SHOULD WE DO WHEN OTHERS OFFEND US?

Ephesians 4:32

Proverbs 19:11

Related Texts: Proverbs 12:16; 14:29; 15:1, 18; 16:32; 17:14; Colossians 3:12, 13

If we are always thinking about the unkind and unfair things that others do we will find it impossible to love them as Christ has loved us. But, if our thoughts are about the wonderful love and mercy that Christ has for us, we will show the same spirit and it will flow out to others.

We should love and respect one another in spite of the faults and flaws that we cannot help seeing. It should be our goal to be humble and not to trust ourselves. We should be patient and tender when it comes to the faults of others. This will take away all the selfishness and give us a large heart that will help us to be generous.

(2) WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO PREVENT THE INFECTIOUS SPREAD OF DISCOURAGEMENT?

Proverbs 3:5

Related Texts: Psalm 37:5-7; 62:8; 115:9-11; 125:1; Isaiah 26:3, 4; Jeremiah 17:7, 8

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The psalmist says, "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." Psalm 37:3. Each day has its burdens and its cares. Things happen that we don't understand and when we meet with others we should avoid telling them our difficulties and trials. When we share troubles it takes away our peace of mind. We are allowing fears to come in and the result is stress and anxiety. Because of all this it would appear to others that we don't have a loving Saviour who has love and mercy for us, who is ready to hear all our prayers and to be there to help us in time of need.

(3) BY WHAT PROMISE CAN WE KNOW THAT GOD WILL NOT DESERT US IN ANY SITUATION?

Hebrews 13:5

Related Texts: Deuteronomy 31:6, 8; Joshua 1:5; 1 Samuel 12:22; 1 Chronicles 28:20

Some people are always full of fear and borrowed trouble. Every day they are surrounded with tokens of God's love and are enjoying the fruit that comes from His hand, yet they overlook the blessings that are always present. Their minds are always thinking about something bad that they fear might happen; or some difficulty may really exist which, though small, blinds their eyes to the many things that should receive their thanks. The hard times they go through keeps them from peace. The gloom that results separates them from God instead of bringing them to Him, the only source of help.

Does it do us any good to be unbelieving like this? Why should we be ungrateful and distrusting? Jesus is our friend and all of heaven is interested in what happens to us. We should not al-

low the things we don't understand and the cares of everyday life to worry us and cause us to be gloomy. If we do this we will always have something to bother and disturb us. We should not dwell on things that only cause worry and wear us down since this worry will not help us to get through our trials.

(4) WHAT WILL THE LORD DO FOR US IF WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND TRUST HIM?

Proverbs 3:6

Related Texts: Proverbs 16:3, 9; Psalm 25:8, 9; 32:8; Isaiah 30:21; 48:17; Jeremiah 10:23

You may have troubles in your business, your prospects may grow darker and darker, and you may be threatened with loss. If this happens do not become discouraged; cast your cares upon God and remain calm and cheerful. Pray for wisdom to manage your affairs wisely, to keep from loss and disaster. Do all you can on your part to bring about favorable results. Jesus has promised His help, but not unless we put forth the effort. When you have relied on the Lord and you have done all you can, then accept the result cheerfully.

(5) AS WE FACE TRIALS, WHAT ENCOURAGEMENT DOES THE LORD GIVE US?

John 16:33

Related Texts: John 14:27; Psalm 85:8-11; Romans 5:1, 2; Philippians 4:6, 7

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It is not the will of God that His people should be weighed down with the cares of this world. But our Lord does not deceive us. He does not say to us, "Do not fear; there are no dangers in your path." He knows there are trials and dangers, and is honest about it. He does not suggest that His people should be taken out of a world of sin and evil, but He points them to a never-failing refuge.

(6) WHAT PROMISE CAN WE CLAIM CONCERNING OUR DAILY NEEDS?

Matthew 6:33

Related Texts: 1 Kings 3:11-13; 17:13; Malachi 3:10, 12; Luke 12:31; John 6:27; 2 Chronicles 31:10; Luke 5:6, 7

In His Sermon on the Mount in Matthew Chapter 5 five, Christ taught His disciples precious lessons about the need of trusting in God. These lessons were given to encourage the children of God through all ages, and they have come down to our time full of instruction and comfort. The Saviour pointed His followers to the birds of the air, who sing their carols of praise free from care for, "they sow not, neither do they reap." And yet the great Father provides for their needs. The Saviour asks, "Are ye not much better than they?" Matthew 6:26. The great Provider for man and beast opens His hand and supplies all His creatures' needs. He even notices the birds of the air. He does not drop the food into their bills, but He makes available the things they need. They have to gather the grains He has scattered for them. They must prepare the material

for their little nests and feed their young. It is true "your heavenly Father feedeth them" and "are ye not much better than they?" Aren't you, as intelligent, spiritual worshipers of more value than the birds of the air? Won't the Author of our being, the Preserver of our life, the One who formed us in His own divine image, provide for our needs if we will only trust in Him?

(7) WHAT DOES CHRIST ASK US TO CONSIDER AS ASSURANCE OF HIS LOVING CARE?

Matthew 6:28-30

Related Texts: Matthew 6:25, 31; Luke 22:35

Christ pointed His disciples to the flowers of the field, growing in rich abundance and glowing in the simple beauty which the heavenly Father had given them, as a way to show His love to man. He said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow." These natural flowers, simple and full of beauty, go beyond the glory of Solomon. The most gorgeous clothing made with the skill of art cannot compare with the natural grace and shining beauty of the flowers of God's creation. If God, the divine Artist, gives to the simple flowers that die in a day their delicate and varied colors, how much greater care will He have for those who are created in His own image? With this lesson Jesus is scolding the faithless heart that has fearful thoughts and is uncertain and full of doubt.

The Lord wants to have all His sons and daughters happy, peaceful, and obedient. Jesus says, "My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

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“These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.”
John 14:27; 15:11.

(8) WHAT ARE 6 PRACTICAL ACTS OF SACRIFICIAL SERVICE THAT WE, IN LOVE, CAN DO FOR GOD TO HELP OTHERS AND, IN RETURN, RECEIVE HAPPINESS AND TRUE FULFILLMENT?

Isaiah 58:6, 7

Related Texts: Isaiah 58:8-11; James 1:27; Psalm 112:9; Ecclesiastes 11:1, 2; Proverbs 25:21; 28:27; Daniel 4:27; Matthew 25:35-40

When someone goes out of his way to search for happiness for selfish reasons, the results will be unbalanced, changeable, and passing. When he searches in this way the heart is filled with loneliness and sorrow. On the other hand there is joy, happiness, and peace in the service of God. The Christian is not left to walk in uncertain paths; he is not left with worthless regrets and failures. Even if we do not have the pleasures of this life we may still be joyful in looking to the life beyond.

(9) WHEN WE ARE ENJOYING COMMUNION WITH CHRIST AND SHARING THE GOSPEL, WHAT PROMISE OF COMFORT IS OURS?

Matthew 28:20

Related Texts: Psalm 46:7, 11; Isaiah 41:10; Mk.16:20; John 14:18; 2 Tim. 4:17

Even here on earth Christians may have the joy that comes from being close to Christ. They may have the light of His love, and the constant comfort of His presence. Every step in life may bring us closer to Jesus, give us a deeper experience of His love, and may bring us one step nearer to the blessed home of peace. Then let's not throw away our trust, but have even stronger belief. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," and He will help us to the end. 1 Samuel 7:12.

(10) WHY SHOULD WE KEEP THE BLESSING GOD HAS GIVEN IN THE PAST ALWAYS FRESH IN OUR MINDS?

Deuteronomy 4:9

Related Texts: Hebrews 2:1; Deuteronomy 6:7; 11:19, 20; Proverbs 4:20-23; 3:1-3

Let us look to the mighty pillars God has given us as reminders of what He has done to comfort and to save us from the hand of the destroyer. Let us keep fresh in our memory all the tender mercies that God has shown us: the tears He has wiped away, the pains taken away, the worry removed, the fears taken away; the things we wanted He supplied, the blessings He has given. Remembering these things will give us strength for

all that is before us through the rest of our journey.

(11) WHAT PROMISE CAN WE CLAIM AS WE BEAR THE TRIALS AND PERPLEXITIES OF THE COMING CONFLICT?

1 Corinthians 10:13

Related Texts: 1 Peter 1:6, 7; 5:8-10; Job 23:10; Ephesians 6:12, 13; Revelation 2:10; 3:10

We may look back on past trials as well as on what is to come, and say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." "As thy days, so shall thy strength be." Deuteronomy 33:25. The trial will not be greater than the strength that will be given to us to bear it. Then let us do our work wherever we find it and believe that whatever trial may come, God will provide the strength needed.

(12) THOUGH WE MAY WITNESS AND EXPERIENCE TRIALS HARD TO BEAR, WHAT CAN WE HAVE JOY AND COMFORT IN KNOWING?

Romans 8:28

Related Texts: Romans 8:35-39; 5:3-5; Deuteronomy 8:2, 3, 16; Psalm 46:1, 2; Zechariah 13:9; 2 Corinthians 4:15-18

(13) AS OVERCOMERS BY GOD'S GRACE, WHAT WONDERFUL WORDS CAN WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING?

Matthew 25:34

Related Texts: Matthew 25: 21, 23; 5:3-12; Luke 12:32; 2 Timothy 4:8

When the time is right the gates of heaven will be thrown open to let in God's children, and from the lips of the King of glory the blessing in the verse above will fall on their ears like sweet music. Then those who are saved will be welcomed to the home that Jesus has prepared for them. They will not be in the company of the evil ones of this earth: the liars, the worshiper of idols, the impure, and the unbelieving. They will be with those who have overcome Satan and through divine grace have formed perfect characters. Every sinful tendency and every imperfection that bothers them here has been removed by the blood of Christ. The excellence and brightness of His glory is given to them that far exceeds the brightness of the sun. The moral beauty which is the perfection of His character will shine through them in worth far exceeding this outward brightness. They are without any faults before the great white throne, sharing the honor and the privileges of the angels.

(14) AS THE GREAT CONTROVERSY BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL DRAWS TO A CLOSE, WHAT IMPORTANT QUESTION SHOULD WE BE ASKING OURSELVES?

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Matthew 16:26

Related Texts: Matthew 5:29; Luke 9:25; 12:20, 21; Job 27:8; Psalm 49:7, 8, 15

In view of the glorious inheritance that may be ours, is there anything this world has that is worth losing our soul over? We may be poor, yet we possess a wealth and honor that the world could never give. The soul redeemed and cleansed from sin, with all its good powers dedicated to the service of God, is of great value. There is joy in heaven in the presence of God and the holy angels over one soul redeemed, a joy that is expressed in songs of holy triumph.

I realize that if I trust in my own wisdom and understanding I am doomed for discouragement. I am thankful for His faithful promise to guide me into His kingdom.

Circle: Yes Undecided

I choose to always keep the blessings of my past for me in mind so I won't doubt His leading in my present and my future. I am thankful for His comfort and direction as I travel through the trials

and perplexities of this life's journey.

Circle: Yes Undecided

I am thankful to God for revealing the steps that I may choose to take to draw closer to Him in this Bible study series and I am looking forward to hearing those awesome words, "Well done my faithful servant, welcome to the home I have prepared for you."

Circle: Yes Undecided

Study Notes - Prayer Requests - Answered Prayers: _____
