

## Perfect Joy

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There is no greater joy than that which is found in the fellowship of the church because this fellowship is truly with God Himself and His Son, Jesus Christ. The Joy of this fellowship is made perfect and complete when it is shared and received by others through our personal witness.

There is joy in the house of the Lord and in the hearts of His people, and this joy is eternal!

What does it mean to be a spiritual person? Well, the truth is, we all are spiritual creatures being made up of a body, soul, and spirit. Our existence goes way beyond that which meets the eye.

We are questioned in the bible... *Who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?* (1 Corinthians 2:11). The spirit and soul of man goes beyond the scope of science to explain because they are unseen and undetectable to the natural senses, but that doesn't change the reality of their existence.

The bible tells us that God is a spirit and that He created us (man) in His image. In light of our complex existence, how can a sane, rational mind deny the divine creator? **Psalm 14:1** The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

Sin separated man from God placing him in spiritual darkness; meaning that, man lost his relationship and fellowship with his creator. No one or no thing comes into being without God, yet the thing created knows not its creator. However, God has not left Himself without witness.

**Romans 1:18–20** <sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup>because **that which is known about God is evident within them**; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, **so that they are without excuse**.

God's greatest witness to the world He created was the sending of His own Son, Jesus Christ. *He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him, (John 1:10).*

**Jesus Christ was not only a witness, but He was and is the savior!!!**

Today, you and I can know God through His Son, Jesus Christ, and we can believe in Jesus Christ by the witness of His Holy Spirit, the witness of His resurrection, the witness of His apostles, and the faithful witness of His church.

**Matthew 11:25–27** <sup>25</sup>Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. <sup>26</sup>"Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. <sup>27</sup>"All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

**Joy Perfected in Fellowship: 1 John 1:1-7**

1 John 1:1–2 <sup>1</sup>What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— <sup>2</sup>and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

The eternal life (the life in Christ) was with the Father who revealed Him to His apostles. Jesus confirmed this personal revelation to Peter. "You are blessed because flesh and blood did not reveal Me to you, but it was the work of My Father who is in Heaven (Mt. 16:17)

**1 John 1:3–4** <sup>3</sup>what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed, our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

By their faith in Jesus Christ, the apostles were joined in fellowship with God the Father, and His Son, and with each other; however, to make their joy perfect and complete, they needed to share their experience with others.

The joy of our fellowship is magnified when we share our witness with others in hopes that they will be brought into fellowship with God and His Son, and with all the household of faith, better known as the church.

**Paul's mission: Acts 26:18**

to open their eyes (*the eyes of the Gentiles*) so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

In Hebrews 12, we are told that Jesus endured the sufferings of the cross; He despised all its shame and reproach, all for the joy which was set before Him. By His death, many would be brought into fellowship with God, with Himself, and with His congregation – the “Cloud of witnesses” and those whom the Father would give to Him (John 10). The bible speaks of joy and rejoicing in Heaven over each soul reconciled with God in Christ!

- Continued Revelation and Fellowship

**1 John 1:7** If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Jesus Christ is the Word! He is the light which has come into this world and appeared to all men. The church is made up of all who come and continue to walk in the light. These all share in the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ, meaning that, we are the benefactors of the saving power of His death and resurrection.

The church has been entrusted with the truth; to know it, to preserve it; to proclaim it; and most of all to live by it!

**Matthew 13:11** Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them (the unbelieving) it has not been granted.”

To continue in the Word of truth keeps us from the snares of the enemy; it keeps us from the deceptiveness of sin; it keeps us from wandering away from God by ever drawing us closer and closer to Him; it disperses the darkness of fear and confusion; it empowers us to overcome our enemies and our adversities; It is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved by it, it is the power of God!

There is joy in the house of the Lord - It is the joy of fellowship with God and His Son, Jesus Christ, and with all the members of His body – the church.

I want to make my joy complete by inviting you into this fellowship. Who will believe the witness of God? Who will receive Jesus Christ as their savior?

**John 1:12** As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.