

“Turning Sadness Into Joy” - John 16:16-33 Pt. 2

John 16:16–33 NKJV - “A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.” 17 Then some of His disciples said among themselves, “What is this that He says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I go to the Father?’” 18 They said therefore, “What is this that He says, ‘A little while’? We do not know what He is saying.” 19 Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, “Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’? 20 Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. 21 A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22 Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. 23 “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. 25 “These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; 27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. 28 I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.” 29 His disciples said to Him, “See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! 30 Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.” 31 Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? 32 Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. 33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

This section finishes Jesus’ Upper Room teaching, and deals mostly with the emotions of His disciples. They were sorrowing and were confused about some of Jesus’ teaching, and were very afraid.

- Its encouraging to know the disciples were real men with real problems, yet the Lord was able to use them. We sometimes get the false impression that these men were different from us, especially endowed with spiritual knowledge and courage; but that wasn't the case. They were just like us - human!

One of the recurring themes in this section is joy. The disciples were certainly not experiencing much joy that night! But what Jesus said to them eventually made a difference in their lives, just as it can make a difference in our lives today. Tenderly and patiently, our Lord explained how His people can have their sorrow and sadness, turned into deep & lasting joy...

I. Submit to His **PROCESS** (v.16-22)

II. Believe in His **PROMISE** (v.23-28)

III. Embrace your **POSITION** (v.29-33)

I. Submit to His PROCESS (v.16-22)

- **Here, the disciples are passing thru a very difficult time in their lives of confusion, disappointment, sorrow and sadness.**
- **God’s PROCESS: The Lord brings joy to our lives, not by substitution, but thru TRANSFORMATION!**

II. Believe in His **PROMISE** (v.23-28)

*“And in that day you will **ask** Me nothing. **Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.** Until now you have **asked** nothing in My name. **Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.** “These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. **In that day you will ask in My name,** and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”*

- **God’s PROMISE:** *“Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full” (v.24) - it’s all about PRAYER!*
 - It is important to note that the text uses two different words for “ask,” although they can be used interchangeably. The word used in John 16:19, 23a, and 26 means “to ask a question” or “to ask a request.” It is used when someone makes a request of someone equal. The word translated “ask” in John 16:23b, 24, and 26b (“pray”) means “to request something of a superior.” This latter word was never used by Jesus in His prayer life because He is equal to the Father. We come as inferiors to God, asking for His blessing; but He came as the very Son of God, equal with the Father.
- **Jesus promised a day would soon come when they wouldn’t need to ask Him more questions.** Instead, they would pray to the Father and He would meet their needs. This was the promise that they desperately needed to believe: that the Father loved them and would hear their requests and meet their needs. While Jesus was on earth, He met all the needs of His disciples. Now He would return to the Father, but the Father would meet their needs. Here is the wonderful promise and privilege of prayer.
- **Our Lord had mentioned prayer many times in His ministry,** and He had set the example for prayer in His own life. He was indeed a man of prayer. In His Upper Room message, Jesus emphasized prayer (John 14:12–14; 15:7, 16; 16:23–26). He made it clear that believing prayer is one of the secrets of a fruitful Christian life.
- **Jesus explained that there would soon be a new & better situation for the disciples.** Everything would change because of His resurrection, His ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. In the days that followed, this would become clearer to the disciples as they would be taught by the Spirit of God. There would be not only a new situation in teaching, but also a new situation in their praying.
- **In the Book of Acts, we see the early church depended heavily on PRAYER.** They believed the promises of God and asked God for what they needed. It would do all of God’s people good if they reviewed regularly what Jesus taught about prayer in this Upper Room Discourse. There is indeed joy in praying and in receiving answers to prayer.
- *“..whatever you ask the Father in My Name..”*
 - **1. AUTHORITY** - thru Jesus’ position
 - **2. CONFORMITY** - like Jesus’ person

▪ *Be in God’s Word!*



▪ *Know God’s Mind!*



- *Have God's Heart!*



- There is **JOY** as we engage in prayer, and there is **JOY** in submitting to the process of transformation. Jesus shared a third kind of **JOY**... of sharing Jesus' victory over the world.

III. *Embrace your POSITION* (v.29-33)

His disciples said to Him, "See, now You are speaking plainly, and using no figure of speech! Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

- **Every believer is either overcome or an overcomer!** - *"And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith"* (1 Jn 5:4).
 - The world wants to overcome us & the world wants to conform us...
 - **1 Jn 5:19** - "We know that the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one."
 - **Rom 12:2** - "Don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed..."
 - **But when we yield ourselves to Christ, He empowers us to be overcomers:**
 - **Rom 8:31** - "If God is for us, who can be against us?"
 - **Phil 4:13** - "I can do all things thru Christ who strengthens me."
 - **1 Jn 5:4** - "This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith."
 - **Rev 3:21** - "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne.."
 - **The Lord wants us to embrace our spiritual position in Christ & realize we're already victorious thru Jesus' victory!**
- **Your POSITION:** *We are already VICTORIOUS in Jesus Christ, thru His VICTORY of the Cross & Resurrection!*
 - *"..in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*
- **John 16:33 is the climax of Jesus' Upper Room teaching to His disciples.** Jesus gave this message so that the disciples might have peace - in a world of tribulation. Note the contrast between "in Me" and "in the world." In Christ there is peace; in the world there is tribulation. This is the position we need to claim: we are in Christ, and therefore we can overcome the world and all of its hatred.
 - *George Morrison defined peace as "the possession of adequate resources." In Jesus Christ, we have all the resources that we need.*
 - *But peace depends also on appropriate relationships, because spiritual resources depend on spiritual relationships. "In Me" is the key. In ourselves, we have nothing; but "in Christ" we have all that we need.*
- **"Be of good cheer!" literally it means, "Cheer up!"** Here in John 16:33, He announces the "good cheer" of His victory over the world. We are overcomers because He has first overcome for us.
- **We can see how these 3 explanations from Jesus fit together to turn our SADNESS into JOY:**
 - Jesus revealed **a process** - that God transforms sorrow into joy.
 - But the process works most effectively, when we believe **His promise** & pray.

- We'll be able to pray most effectively, when we embrace ***our position*** - *that we're already victorious in Jesus Christ!*

*There is joy when we submit to God's process,
permit God to **TRANSFORM** sorrow into joy.*

*There is joy when we believe in Jesus' promise
and engage in regular **PRAYER**.*

*There is joy when we embrace our position in Christ,
Knowing the **VICTORY** has already been won by Jesus!
"Rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice!" (Phil 4:4)*