

SPIRITUAL HEALTH FOR THE NEW YEAR

SERVING GOD WITH GLADNESS/JOY

- Psalms 100:2-3 Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. 3 Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.
- There is a curse involved when we attempt to serve God without gladness/joy.
- Deuteronomy 28:45-48 "So all these curses shall come on you and pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you would not obey the LORD your God...(47) "Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things.

GOD'S PRESCRIPTION REGARDING GLADNESS/GRATITUDE/JOY

- I Thessalonians 5:16-19 Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; (18) in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- Philippians 1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,
- Philippians 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

GOD'S PRESCRIPTION REGARDING GLADNESS/GRATITUDE/JOY

- Philippians 4:4-8 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! (5) Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. (6) Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (8) Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.
- 8 times in Philippians Paul instructs us to rejoice and he wrote it from jail not knowing if we would be released.

THE FOUNDATION OF ETERNAL GRATITUDE/GLADNESS/JOY

- Natural and Eternal Gratitude/Gladness/Joy.
- Two essentials to embrace Eternal Gratitude/Gladness/Joy
- 1. Express gratitude and rejoice in the eternal realities of God and His salvation (Isaiah 12:2-6).
- 2. Do it in the presence of the Lord (Psalms 73:1-28).