

## ***Session 7 God’s Beautiful Heart: Gladness and Humility***

### **I. GOD’S BEAUTIFUL HEART OF GLADNESS**

- A. I sometimes speak of David as a “theologian of God’s emotions.” He described God’s heart as full of joy and pleasure. Jesus is full of joy. His primary posture of heart is gladness (Ps. 16:11).  
*<sup>11</sup>In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Ps. 16:11)*  
*<sup>27</sup>Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and gladness are in His place. (1 Chr. 16:27)*  
*<sup>8</sup>You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. (Ps. 36:8)*
- B. The saints will live in the fullness of joy in God’s presence (Jude 1:24).  
*<sup>24</sup>...who is able to...present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. (Jude 1:24)*
- C. God is so gracious because He is full of joy and has a happy heart. God’s presence is full of joy because His personality is full of joy. Gladness and joy are at the center of Jesus’ personality. Many think of God as being *mostly mad* or *mostly sad* when He relates to us.
- D. “How does God feel most of the time?” This question is one of the most important questions in our spiritual journey. How does He feel when He looks at you? Our view of God’s emotions affects how we approach God in our weakness. This impacts the way we feel about ourselves.
1. Is God ever glad? How much of the time is He glad? With whom is He glad? Is He ever glad with people on earth? At what point of maturity does God become glad with them? On what basis is He glad with the weak? Who is mostly responsible?
  2. The theological logic is that if God does not smile, then He **will not** smile at me.
- E. The revelation of a ***God with a smiling heart*** awakens a smiling heart in us.

### **II. WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS ABOUT JESUS’ PERSONALITY**

- A. Jesus walked in the anointing of gladness more than any man in history (Heb. 1:9; cf. Ps. 45:7). He had a free spirit filled with gladness that radiated out of His countenance.  
*<sup>9</sup>God has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions. (Heb. 1:9)*
- B. Peter described Jesus as having a rejoicing heart with glad speech. Jesus’ primary disposition is gladness, not anger or sadness, and His primary speech comes from His gladness.  
*<sup>26</sup>Therefore My [Jesus’] heart rejoiced, and My tongue was glad...<sup>28</sup>You [the Father]...will make Me full of joy in Your presence. (Acts 2:26-28)*
- C. Jesus imparts His joy to His people through feeding on His Word unto the transformation of our emotions so that His joy is imparted to us, so that it becomes our joy.  
*<sup>11</sup>These things I spoke...that My joy may remain in you...that your joy may be full. (Jn. 15:11)*

- D. Jesus spoke of His gladness and the joy of the angels over people when they repented.  
<sup>13</sup>*He rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. (Mt. 18:13)*  
<sup>10</sup>*There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. (Lk. 15:10)*
- E. Jesus was strengthened with joy to help Him endure the cross (Heb. 12:2).  
<sup>2</sup>*Looking unto Jesus...who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross... (Heb. 12:2)*
- F. The Lord's joy strengthens our heart (Neh. 8:10).  
<sup>10</sup>*For the joy of the LORD is your strength. (Neh. 8:10)*

### III. THE REJOICING GOD

- A. God delights in and has joy in His relationship with His people.  
<sup>4</sup>*...but you shall be called Hephzibah...for the LORD delights in you...<sup>5</sup> and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. (Isa. 62:4-5)*  
<sup>19</sup>*He delivered me [David] because He delighted in me. (Ps. 18:19)*  
<sup>18</sup>*...I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy. <sup>19</sup>I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people... (Isa. 65:18-19)*
- B. God relates to us in such kindness because He delights in lovingkindness.  
<sup>24</sup>*"I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. (Jer. 9:24)*
- C. The Lord has a heart of rejoicing for His people.  
<sup>9</sup>*...for the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers... (Deut. 30:9)*  
<sup>41</sup>*Yes, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will assuredly plant them in this land, with all My heart and with all My soul. (Jer. 32:41)*
- D. God's end-time restoration of His people flows from His heart of rejoicing and gladness.  
*The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. (Zeph. 3:17)*

## IV. THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S HUMILITY

- A. Holiness, humility, and love are essentially the same in God's heart—they express His beauty.  
*<sup>9</sup>Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! (Ps. 96:9)*
- B. The incorruptible beauty of humility is very precious to the Lord (1 Pet. 3:4).  
*<sup>4</sup>The incorruptible beauty of a gentle spirit [humble]...is very precious in the sight of God. (1 Pet. 3:4)*  
*<sup>4</sup>For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble with salvation. (Ps. 149:4)*
- C. The only character trait Jesus proclaimed about Himself was His humility. He called us to learn humility from Him. As we understand God's humility, it produces admiration with gratitude, confidence, and inspiration in us. His love and humility are virtues that are expressed together.  
*<sup>29</sup>Take My yoke...learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart [humble]... (Mt. 11:29)*
- D. The concept of a humble God is unique to the Christian faith. No world religious emphasizes a God of humility; rather, they emphasize His power. We have confidence to relate to our God because of His humility.
- E. Jesus didn't put on humility just to accomplish a task on earth. Humility is part of His eternal nature. He has existed eternally in the form of God as a servant.
- F. Daniel 7 prophesied that the Son of Man would receive leadership over the all the nations (7:13-14). Jesus connected His title as the Son of Man to serving people with humility (Mt. 20:28).  
*<sup>28</sup>The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve... (Mt. 20:28)*
- G. A servant is the greatest of all. He will forever be the greatest servant with the most humility.  
*<sup>11</sup>But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. (Mt. 23:11)*  
*<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit [rule] the earth. (Mt. 5:5)*
- H. In John 13, God showed us who He is in His core identity when Jesus took off His robe, girded Himself with a towel, and knelt before sinful men to wash their dirty feet (Jn. 13). The world religions seek "gods of power," but *Jesus revealed the "kneeling God."* We can only understand the truth about God as we see Him "kneeling as a servant" before His weak people.  
*<sup>5</sup>He...began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel... (Jn. 13:5)*
- I. Even in the millennial kingdom, Jesus will serve those who lived a life of humility and watching. Under His robe of dignity and title of royalty is an eternal servant with a towel  
*<sup>37</sup>Blessed are those servants whom the Master, when He comes, will find watching...He will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. (Lk. 12:37)*

- J. In God's eyes, humility is the premier definition and expression of beauty, success, and greatness. Humility is at the foundation of what God is, does, and blesses forever. Therefore, its supremacy is inevitable, and its formation in the saints is essential. Anyone can grow in meekness, whether rich or poor, in a palace or a prison, whether treated with honor or continually mistreated.
- K. He was already so rich and had all authority before the incarnation, but He did not have us with Him (Jn. 17:24). He was so rich, but became so poor that we might become so rich with Him.  
***<sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. (2 Cor. 8:9)***
- L. If Jesus' core identity was in showing His power, then His incarnation would have been a denial of His true self. He did not serve to prove something, but to express the truth about Himself. It is precisely because Jesus is God that He served and gave freely to ungrateful men (Lk. 6:35). There was nothing un-Godlike about washing the disciples' feet. He was at home doing this.
- M. Jesus is not out just to prove a point about how powerful He is, but to win our hearts for love. He did not come as the God of jasper-like glory (Rev. 4:3), but as a Man who expressed it by the mystery of humility. The God of glory wants relationship with humans, not just to dazzle them. He can amaze us with a show of power, but cannot have relationship with us without humility.
- N. The fact that God loves us and so zealously wants our love expresses His profound humility. We are rightly fascinated by God's transcendent power because it is so foreign to us. However, God's indescribable love and humility is what produces love and humility in us.  
***<sup>24</sup>Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am... (Jn. 17:24)***
- O. Jesus exalted God by openly displaying the kindness of the Father's story.  
***<sup>6</sup>Made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of...His kindness toward us in Christ. (Eph. 2:6-7)***
- P. God's humility is expressed in all He does, especially in exalting weak humans to rule with Him. The revelation of His glory includes seeing One ***so high*** (transcendence) who went ***so low*** (immanence) to bring us ***so near*** (redemption) because we are ***so dear*** (Bride).  
***<sup>5</sup>Who is like the LORD our God, Who dwells on high, <sup>6</sup>Who humbles Himself to behold the things that are in the heavens and in the earth? <sup>7</sup>He raises the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy out of the ash heap, <sup>8</sup>that He may seat him with princes... (Ps. 113:5-8)***
- Q. Jesus will take over the nations on the basis of humility and will fill the earth with humility.  
***<sup>4</sup>In your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility and righteousness... (Ps. 45:4, NIV)***
- R. Practical expressions of humility include serving people without drawing attention to one's self, not insisting on promotion, or respect, or to be acknowledged, and to not quit because of the frustration of small resources, small responses from people, a small measure of favor, etc.