

BRINGING HEAVEN TO EARTH: A CELEBRATION OF JOY

Part 5 of Series Heaven on Earth

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A Good Maxim for Life:

Take God SERIOUSLY but don't take yourself so SERIOUSLY!

Joy: What It *Isn't*

- It's not from the OUTSIDE
- It's not the ABSENCE OF DIFFICULTY
- It's not limited to HERE ON EARTH

1. Joy is the REVITALIZING OF THE SOUL.

"A joyful heart is good medicine, But a broken spirit dries up the bones." Proverbs 17:22 (NASB)

- A. Joy comes from the INSIDE.
- B. Laughter *is* the BEST MEDICINE

2. Joy is the RESULT OF DIFFICULTY.

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials." James 1:2 (NASB)

- A. We all have PROBLEMS; we can all have JOY.
- B. Joy is the GIFT that KEEPS ON GIVING!

3. Joy is the REACTION IN HEAVEN when someone responds to the Gospel.

“There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.” Luke 15:7 (NASB)

A. Joy is ETERNAL.

B. God is interested in the SEVERE SINNER, even if the SELF RIGHTEOUS are not!