

Jesus, Good News of Great Joy!

Scripture:

Luke 2:8-14 – The Good News for all people is that God wants to restore His relationship with us, as it was before it was damaged by Adam and Eve’s disobedience which allowed sin to enter creation. Bringing with it death and destruction. God wants the relationship with us (you and me) that enjoys with Himself, between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (John 17:24) The desire of God is that we be with Him and Jesus desire is the same.

This is Good News of Great Joy!

What is Joy? Is joy happiness? We seem to interchange them and use them, thinking they mean the same thing, but they don’t. Joy is internal and is not dependent upon circumstances. Happiness is all about circumstances.

(Psalm 30)

Q1. But why are we not automatically in that perfect relationship that God desires to be in with us, He is God after all, couldn’t He just make it happen? The reality is that He did, He made a way, by sending His only Son, Jesus, born to a virgin named Mary. (John 3:16) (Luke 1:30-33)

Q2. What is our part in this Good News that brings great joy? John 3:16 tells us that, whosoever believes in Him should not perish (die) but have everlasting life.

Q3. Who is the Him referred to in John 3:16? Jesus, God’s only begotten Son. Jesus tells us Himself in John 14:6 ...”I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Q4. What keeps us from receiving this Good News of Great Joy? Fear. The first thing that the Angels say to the Shepherds, Do Not be Afraid! Why, because they have Good News that will bring Great Joy to all people. (Created in God’s image and likeness) In Luke 1:30, the Angel says to Mary, “Do not be Afraid” and in Genesis 3:10, after eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam says this when God inquires as to his whereabouts, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

Galatians 5:22-23 Joy is a characteristic of the Fruit of the Spirit (God’s Spirit) We are sealed with the Holy Spirit upon accepting this Good News and declaring that we accept and submit to Jesus as Savior and Lord of our lives.

Hebrews 12:2 The same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us if we have accepted Him as Savior and Lord. Accepting Him as Savior from all of my sin’s past, present, and future; sure, I can do that. I know I’m not perfect, and I believe as it says in Romans 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is found in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:12-14 <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is the guarantee<sup>[a]</sup> of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it,<sup>[b]</sup> to the praise of his glory.

But to also accept him as Lord, then I have to listen, then I have to follow, then I have to obey. Jesus gives a command in two parts in Matthew 28:16-20. He first tells the disciples to go and make other disciples by baptizing them in the name of the father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and part two is teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

As Lord of our lives, we are to be obedient to all He commands us. Not so simple, in fact, most likely, darn near impossible; except that all things are possible through Christ who strengthens me.

Do you believe you need a Savior?

Do you think too little of your sin, and not enough of His great mercy?

While we were yet sinners, Romans 5:8<sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1. Acknowledges his need for a savior by understanding that he is not deserving of God's blessing.

Peter: Jesus commands him lower his nets for a catch...<sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

2. Never acknowledges their own need for a Savior, because they never accepted the free gift of Salvation and their need for a Savior.

<sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

The Great Joy of Christmas is that God sent His only Son and made a way for us to no longer be His enemies, but to be His children and to receive the inheritance of the Son in full. An inheritance that we do not deserve and cannot acquire on our own!

(Psalm 147)

Simchah is the Hebrew for Joy, which is "to be bright, to shine to rejoice" Proverbs 13:9

**The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked will be put out.**

Praise be to God, our Heavenly Father and to the Son, and to the Spirit, Now go and shout the Good News of Great Joy to everyone; for this Christmas season and those to come should He tarry.