



An Invitation to Joy

A Series from 1 John

How to Experience a Life of Joy 1 John 1:5-10

We experience joy as we live in Jesus' forgiveness.

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Text Message:

- Circle the key phrase, "If we..." which appears three times.
- Notice the difference in attitude toward sin between Verses 8 and 10 and Verse 9.
- We can't experience joy when sin is suppressed. We can experience joy when sin is confessed.
- Any known sin that is unconfessed will steal your joy!
- *So, what does it mean to "confess" sin?*
- The word "confess" (ομολογεω, *homologeō*) literally means, "to say the same thing."
- In other words, we agree with God about sin, rather than downplaying it (Verse 8) or denying it (Verse 10) like the proto-Gnostic false teachers of John's day.
- We can make the same mistake as the proto-Gnostics if we are not serious enough about sin to confess [and forsake!] it!

We experience joy as we live in Jesus' freedom.

Verse 7:

Text Message:

- Don't miss the last clause of this Verse! It doesn't say:
... the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from **some** sin.
... the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us **in** all sin.
- BUT ... the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us **from all** sin!
- Notice this is backed up by Verse 9!
- "Can we for a moment suppose that the holy God, who hates sin in the sinner, is willing to tolerate it in the Christian and that He has even arranged the plan of salvation in such a way as to make it impossible for those who are saved from the guilt of sin to find deliverance from its power?" Hannah Whitall Smith, *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*
- Jesus can free us not only from sin's **penalty** but it's **power**:
Jesus:
"So if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed." John 8:36

The Apostle Paul:

"... our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin." Romans 6:6

The Apostle Peter:

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness... 2 Peter 1:3a

The Apostle John:

No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning... 1 John 3:6

The Apostle Jude:

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling... Jude 24a

We experience joy as we live in Jesus' fellowship.

Verses 6-7:

Text Message:

- We don't become like Jesus [Holy] by efforts of the flesh but by constant fellowship with Him!
- **Becoming Like Jesus [Becoming Holy]:**
From Tryingto..... Trusting
From Frustrationto..... Fruit
From Requestingto..... Resting

Meditation for Wednesday, September 15, 2021

1 John 1:1-4

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — ² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Practical guidelines:

- 1) Read the verse above and notice any word, words, or phrase that Scripture and take notice of a word or phrase that “stands out” to you.
- 2) Spend time before the Lord with the word, words, or phrase, repeating it and taking notice of what thoughts, pictures, prayers, etc. come to mind.
- 3) Interact with the meditation by prayer.
- 4) When distracted, intentionally return to the word or phrase and resume meditation.

Notes: