

“How to Step Into a Life of Unshakable Peace and Unlimited Joy”

John 18:28-37a

For God So Loved the World – John, Part 2

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Which of the following statements can you relate to the most? Place a check in one or more of the following boxes:

PREDICAMENT	METHOD OF ALLEVIATING
<input type="checkbox"/> Searching for meaning in promotions and materialism, yet...	meditation and yoga brought no lasting peace
<input type="checkbox"/> The academic pressure became overwhelming, yet...	the parties and social media provided no solace
<input type="checkbox"/> Overwhelmed by financial stress, yet...	the self-help books did not alleviate the despair
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired and struggling with loneliness, yet...	after engaging in social activities, still no fulfillment
<input type="checkbox"/> A comfortable family life, and there’s extreme conflict, yet...	the counseling did not bring about resolution
<input type="checkbox"/> Growing a business from scratch led to anxiety, yet...	the medication led to an addiction
<input type="checkbox"/> Past relationship failures brings about crippling guilt, yet...	involvement with religion didn’t help

God built us to chase NOT after the world’s ways of alleviating the above-described predicaments...

- ... but rather to chase after Him. Result? The _____ and _____ He offers becomes a reality. (Jn 14:27; 15:11)

"To be free from anxiety and to have peace is not to be found in the world, but in Christ alone."
— Thomas à Kempis, from "The Imitation of Christ" —

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."
— Saint Augustine of Hippo, from "Confessions" —

“You piqued my interest. Tell me how to chase after God so I can experience His peace and joy!” *Sure, but first...*

John 18:28-37a... Check out verses 36-37a. Jesus IS a king and His kingdom – the kingdom of God - is from another _____, to be specific, the _____ realm.

1. This kingdom is _____ of people who are in close proximity to true Christians. (Lk 17:21 – NIV)
2. This kingdom of God is _____ those who are true Christians. (Lk 17:21 - KJV)
3. When one becomes a true Christian, one becomes a _____ of the kingdom of God. (Phil 3:17-21)

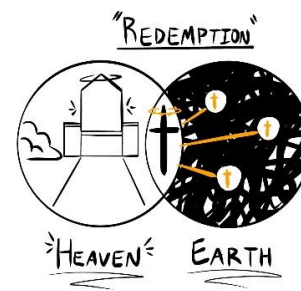
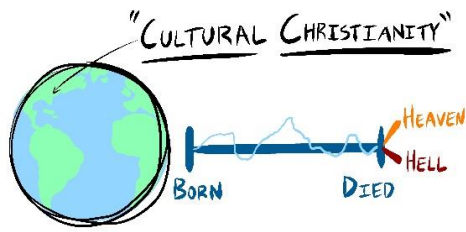
“Cool, but what does this kingdom have to do with me chasing after God so I can experience His peace and joy?”

The kingdom of God IS righteousness, _____, and _____! - Ro 14:17

TURN OVER TO LEARN HOW TO CHASE AFTER GOD SO YOU CAN EXPERIENCE HIS PEACE AND JOY!



How to chase after God so you can experience His unshakable peace and unlimited joy: Become a “_____” Christian. *In other words, a “born again” Christian (Jn 3) rather than a cultural Christian.*



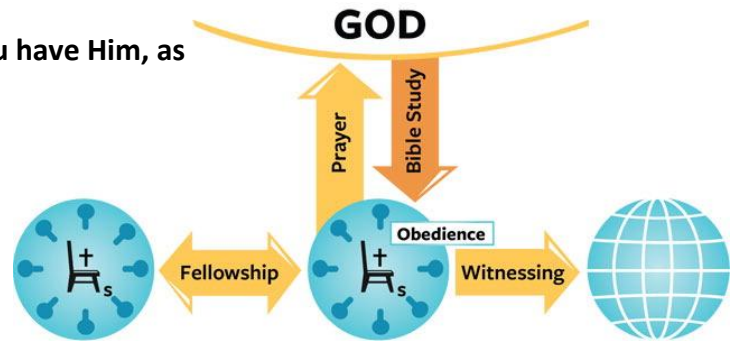
“But how to become a born-again Christian?” Simple. Just believe in and _____ the following (Jn 1:12):

*“God loves me and wants a relationship with me.
Despite my mistakes and separation from Him...
... Jesus came, lived, and died in my place to establish that relationship.
Through faith in Him, I can find forgiveness, purpose, and a new start.”*

(Jn 3:16; Rom 3:23; Rom 5:8; 1 Jn 1:8-9; Lk 9:23-26)

You are now no longer chasing after God, but rather, you have Him, as well as His kingdom, in your heart.

- So, _____ His peace and joy, in Jesus’ name! *How?*
- Develop a lifestyle of daily spiritual _____.



The result? Those predicaments mentioned at the beginning of the message will be dealt with God’s way, resulting in unshakable peace and unlimited joy, even in the midst of the direst of circumstances.

GOING DEEPER FOR “UNSHAKABLE PEACE AND UNLIMITED JOY” – 09/01/24

Go through this note sheet and discuss with your growth group and/or your family at the dinner table. Seek opportunities to also share this with your *oikos* network. Bring this note sheet to your work or school and discuss it with your workmate or schoolmate over lunch. Read the main passage and look up all of the supporting verses. Pray with one another.

1. In the beginning of the message, there were seven examples of predicaments we can find ourselves in, as well as the world’s ways to alleviate those predicaments. Which box did you place a check in and why?
 - a. How specifically did you attempt to alleviate that predicament? Was it a way that God would have approved of, according to the Bible?
2. This message provided insight into the kingdom of God. Which of the insights regarding this spiritual kingdom was most impacting and why?
3. Are you “born again?” How would you describe that term? Is your description biblically accurate? If you are born again, how did that happen for you? Prior to becoming born again, would you say that you were a cultural Christian? Or something else altogether, like perhaps an atheist or an agnostic? Or did you associate with a certain religion?
4. On a scale of 1-5, how much of a “perfect peace” and a “complete joy” is a reality in your life? ___/5. If you didn’t score a 5, what specifically could you do to score a 5?