

March 31

Luke 10:20 (NIV) [Jesus said,] ²⁰ “Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”

Early in my walk with the Lord, I did my best to be involved in as many ways as I could. I served on ministry teams for the Walk to Emmaus, helping to organize and lead teams. I went on mission trips and took part in several community outreaches. I kept all of the badges and notices and certificates as evidence of what I had done for the Lord. At the time, I did not consider what I had done as bragging but as witnessing for the Lord. Then, one day, as I read these words from the Lord, I stopped and thought about what I had been doing and realized I was guilty of doing what the disciples had been doing. I had been rejoicing for the wrong reason.

As I thought about that, the Lord pointed out two truths to me. First, people can do all of those “good” things without having their names recorded in heaven. Jesus says that there will be many who come to Him saying, “Lord, Lord, look what I have done for You,” only to have Jesus say He never knew them (Matthew 7:21-23). Therefore, all can boast of the good things they have done even if their names are not written in the book of heaven. Second, the Lord reminded me that the good things we do in His name are a result of our names being written in the Book of Life. They are the fruit of our being grafted into the root of Jesus Christ, fruit that we could not produce on our own. We are the branches; Jesus is the vine. Therefore, we are to rejoice that our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, and that is not a result of anything we have done. It is the result of the love and sacrifice our Lord and Savior. So, when we rejoice that our names are recorded, we are rejoiced in Jesus Christ. That is truly worth celebrating, and we should never be ashamed of that.