

Inspiration Inspiration



from the Pastor's Pen

July 30, 2009

"WHERE IS YOUR JOY?"

As Pastor Greene is on vacation, I offer you this inspirational thought for the week.

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full." (NIV) John 15:11

Do you recall a time when you were not just happy, but joyous? The day I was saved I remember being filled with joy and a peace that God loved me and has forgiven me for my sins. I still have that joy, but sometimes it gets lost. Sometimes we get caught in our own situations that we think no one cares. We must remember that there is always someone who cares -- our God. We simply have to ask ourselves "where is your joy?"

Through our relationship with God, we are provided with the gift of the Holy Spirit. When we open ourselves to this wonderful gift, the seeds of the fruit of the Holy Spirit are planted within us and they grow in us and we in them. Through the Holy Spirit we are not given some of the fruits, we receive all of the fruits.

We simply need to nurture our fruit and allow it to grow to maturity. For when we allow the seeds of the fruit to take hold within us, we move closer to God. As our relationship with God strengthens, we can experience the fruit of Joy more often. For even in the midst of stress and strife, there is joy. Happiness is a feeling that may come and go, but when Joy comes into your life, it is there always – in good times and in bad times. There may be hurdles we have to jump over and storms we may have to go through, but through it all, there is joy in the center of it all. Joy in knowing that God will never leave us or forsakes us. Joy can be our strength and our comfort during times of trouble. Jesus endured the cross because of the Joy He knew was with him and before Him.

Jesus wants us to know and experience the joy He has with the Father. In sharing His joy with us, He wants to make our joy complete. We all have joy through the Holy Spirit. Let us learn to live in that joy each and every day. For when we do, we are able to share our joy and help ourselves and others find complete joy.

May you find the joy in your life today.

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