

Joy



[**Freedumb In America Today**](#)

By Robert Buckner - December 29, 2011

Joy

It has been our purposed hope at this website; "***Freedumb in America Today, and the Christian's Duty,***" to be able to provide true and accurate information (both historic and current) as it pertains specifically to the truth that America, was founded by men of Christian faith, and as such, did directly and purposely, influence the **Laws** and basis for the design of our **Representative Republican government**, our **Free-Market Economy**, and certainly even **America's public, private, civil, social** and **religious** cultures to reflect the God of the Bible and Christianity!

As did our Founding Fathers so state – I also declare these **Truths** regarding the aforementioned – to be **self-evident!**

As Christians in America today, it is easy to see the dramatic departure from where America's spirituality was at the time of our Founding – and today. Indeed, our current condition can be quite disparaging to view and even more dismal when considering how much "**Restoration**" (individually and as a nation of Christians) must be done - in order to return America to the spiritual-status it once was when it glorified God!

It occurred to me that, as I pray daily to God that He might, through the privilege and prerogative of His grace – forgive America of our national-sins, and to perhaps allow even a *small* remnant of *True* and *Faithful* Christians to be able to lead a majority – back into a faithful life as American citizens, that America might once again be that **lighted city** on the hill. Not for the comfort, security and privilege of the American Christian – but for the **Glory of God!**

However, any student of the Bible knows that even within the security of God's forgiveness – **"Sin has consequences!"**

So, I write today, to every Christian that may have been for many years, or, who may have just recently become engaged, in the difficult effort of attempting to "Restore" **True Christianity** to **all** Americans professing to be Christian – and that as a preferred residual effect – thus be able to **"Restore"** America – as a nation of peoples - **Spiritually-Christian** and actually being once again – the **"Salt"** and the **"Light"** of that in the world which is – the, **Nation America!**

It is important to once again emphasis that even if in several years – Christians can be successful in this righteous pursuit; it will not happen absent of sever and sometimes dark consequences of our past sins!

So, it is my hope that I may write some words of encouragement.

That we might be caused, as **true Children of God**, to recognize that – regardless of our success to Restore America to its true Godly Christian heritage - we do now possess, within *our* spiritual-understanding – an accurate knowledge of that which does represent our **"Eternal Disposition!"** As such – we can have **no** call for sorrow – but every reason for **"JOY!"**

Perhaps more important than just about anything that a Christian can do to glorify God in this present day and to be able to influence non-believers in a most productive and positive manner – we should *all* effort to exude - from deep, deep within – a, vibrant and visible, **Biblical JOY!**

Words and their meanings can change according to the *current* vernacular and usage of contemporary culture and society. In order for us to gain the maximum benefit from God's Word, we should always be cognizant of the true context of what each word meant – *at the time it was written*.

"Happy v. Joy"

Are you happy? Do you have Joy? Initially, you may think those two questions are asking the same thing – but – Biblically, they are not.

Consider, the "Smile." A smile could be representative of happiness or joy in most people's thinking. However, a smile is on the outside and joy comes from within. A smile can last for a few moments but **joy** – can be eternal.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 "Rejoice always"

Some translations say: "**Rejoice evermore**"

As Christians, we must know how to have – "**Fullness of Joy.**"

We currently live in a generation that is always seeking "*Happiness.*" There is an important difference between happiness and joy.

You are *not* to be happy all of the time – happiness depends on, what happens. So, we call it happiness – if what happens is good; you are happy. If what happens is bad; you are unhappy.

If you rely upon or put your trust in happiness, then you are going to always be a victim of circumstance because happenstance will always cause change.

God never changes. The Bible does not tell us to rejoice in circumstances, it tells us to rejoice in the Lord; and because God never changes we can rejoice, "Always" and "Evermore."

Happiness is like cosmetic and Joy is like character. Happiness comes from outside circumstances and Joy comes from within. Happiness meets surface needs and Joy meets your deepest needs.

Happiness is like a thermometer, it registers conditions. Joy is like a thermostat, it regulates conditions.

Happiness will evaporate and disappear in times of suffering, but joy can intensify in times of suffering. Not only does joy intensify but is often, intertwined with sorrow.

Happiness will always function best when it is rooted in joy. Joy however is not dependent upon happiness and may actually function better when happiness is taken away. It is actually cruel to say to people sometimes, when they are in sorrow; "*Smile and be happy.*"

People are not to be happy all of the time. You cannot paste a smile on your face and just go through life with a grin on your face. The Bible says of Jesus, in:

Isaiah 53:3 "He was despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and as one from whom men hide their face he was despised; and we esteemed him not."

And yet, the Bible spoke of the "Joy" of the Lord, the Bible says of the lord that He was anointed with the *oil of gladness* above His fellows.

This is a life of tragedy and sorrow and heartache and pain and woe – and yet - in sorrow and heartache and difficulty; ***you can have Joy!***

Why is Joy so important? Joy is important to be able to represent Jesus to others. As Christians, we have nothing that is more winsome or attractive to bring Jesus Christ to than the truth of the Joy of the Lord. A cold dry faith has no appeal.

David wrote in the Psalms, when he was out of service to God - he lost his joy. When he lost his joy he lost his ability to convert others to God and he prayed to God in: ***Psalms 51:12-13 "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with a willing spirit. ¹³ Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; And sinners shall be converted unto thee."*** "***Joy***" is the proof that what we have in our ***Hope*** is real and that it satisfies!

Joy is necessary to bring un-saved people to Jesus Christ and indeed, is necessary to just live, the Christian life! The Bible says that we are to, ***"Serve the Lord with Gladness."*** Nehemiah said that, "***The joy of the Lord is your strength.***"

It is joy that lubricates life. It is joy that lifts the burden. It is joy that takes the pain and the dreariness and weariness out of work. Joy is quite literally physically-invigorating!

A cleansed life or, cleansing:

To be *clean* before God (washed of sin); to know that you are *clean* before God causes an indescribable joy because of the Peace; Confidence and assurance residing in *the* Hope.

***Romans 5:1-2 "Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;
² through whom also we have had our access by faith into this grace wherein we stand; and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God."***

Joy comes from having peace with God and peace with God comes by the grace of God and the grace of God brings justification and that justification brings joy!

Faith brings justification; justification brings peace; and peace brings joy. To know that your sin is forgiven is joy. Obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ brings peace – and peace brings Joy!

When Jesus spoke to the seventy which he had sent out who returned with joy that they had been able to drive-out demons, etc. Jesus told them that they should more – **rejoice** in the fact that their names were written in heaven.

Luke 10:20 “Nevertheless in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

From this we can know what things can provide us with a legitimate joy as well as those things which our **true joy** should be resting upon.

We should consider what one thing can take the joy out of our lives. **“Sin,”** can take the joy out of our lives. That is why David prayed in **Psalms 51** that God would “Restore” joy to his life – because “Sin” had taken it away; proving that sin can cause you to lose the joy of your salvation.

If the doctor tells you that you have cancer; that cannot take the joy out of your life. If you have a broken home; that cannot take the joy out of your heart. If you have a wayward child; that cannot take the joy out of your heart. If your house burns down; that cannot take the joy out of your heart. There is only one thing that can diminish your joy – and that is SIN!

What if someone does something mean to you? That can't take the joy out of your heart – that takes the joy out of his heart. The reaction of what *you* do – can take the joy out of your heart. If you want to see who a person *really* is; don't watch their actions – watch their reactions.

If you are watching my actions – you are observing what I want you to see; what I planned to do. But, if you want to know the real me; watch what I do when I am wronged or mistreated or abused; that is when the *real* me is shown.

If someone should come against me for the Truth that I express about God's Word or the true spiritual history of God and America – he can't take my joy! In fact, that should actually enhance my joy, the Bible says that, “*When you are persecuted, rejoice.*”

The only thing that can take the joy out of your life is “Sin;” and only one kind of sin – “Your” Sin.

When there is nothing between you and God – that is peace - that is **“JOY!”**

The most miserable man on earth is not an un-saved man. The most miserable man on earth is the saved man out of service to God! He has lost the joy of his salvation!

If you have that cleansing and are justified – you can have joy.

Romans 5:1-2 "Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;

² through whom also we have had our access by faith into this grace wherein we stand; and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

³ And not only so, but we also rejoice in our tribulations: knowing that tribulation worketh steadfastness;

⁴ and steadfastness, approvedness; and approvedness, hope:

⁵ and hope putteth not to shame; because the love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given unto us."

Above, scripture tells us that we can rejoice in "hope." What does hope mean? It means confidence based upon the Word of God.

A Christian has joy because a Christian has confidence. A Christian knows that, no matter what happens to him, all things are working together by God for good for God's glory and therefore; for our good.

The saddest word I can think of would be, "Hopeless." If you are a *Child of God* – there is **NO** situation for you that is hopeless. That is the reason that you have joy. Hope is confidence.

Paul said in: **Romans 12:12 "rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing steadfastly in prayer"**

No matter what may happen to me in this world – I know what my **Eternal Disposition** is!

This joy is steadfast in sorrow; this joy is triumphant in tribulation;

2 Corinthians 7:4 "Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying on your behalf: I am filled with comfort, I overflow with joy in all our affliction."

This joy is lasting in losses.

Hebrews 10:34 "For ye both had compassion on them that were in bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of you possessions, knowing that ye have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one."

What if you came home to find that you had been burglarized? What if all of your earthly possessions were gone? Or perhaps your house had burned to the ground and everything was gone?

If you got your joy from your house and your possessions – your joy might be gone too. If your joy is enthroned in the Lord – then you cannot lose your joy unless you lose your relationship with the Lord!

We are to rejoice in hope, that which gives us confidence and residing in that confidence is the joy – the joy which nothing can take from us!

What is this joy? It is rooted in a cleansing, justification; it is rooted in confidence; we rejoice in God's Hope; and in Hope - nothing is hopeless to the Child of God. If you do not have joy – life is meaningless!

Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice."

For every American Christian who endeavors to teach and educate and "**Restore**" the **Truths** of God and also, the **Truths** of America's Spiritual heritage – I would say: "**REJOICE!**" Even if you may not feel that you have succeeded; your **JOY** should not be diminished!

As Christians we are to do everything that we can to use those skills, talents and abilities that we each have, individually, to teach God's Truth.

In America, because of the incredible enhanced blessing of individual **political** and **economic "Liberty"** and the "**Freedoms**" to use that liberty to God's Glory – If we *choose not* to be; in the fight for Good and Glory – then I believe that we will not be serving God to the fullest of our ability and that as a result – those who do not – will not have the **Biblical Joy** that is otherwise available!



[Freedumb In America Today](#)