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What Joy Can Do

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Jay C. Jackson Home

Edith Caldwell

WHAT JOY CAN DO

INT: God's 1979 goal for M.T. in *Eph. 4:11-15. Path to that goal is found in *Gal. 5:22-26. Last Sun.: What LOVE can do! Lead to service!!! Today: What JOY can do for Midtown in 1979....

I. DEFINITION OF JOY: very difficult to define!!!

Celestial Spt.

A. Religious definition: Gr. Gladness. Rejoicing. Exultation. Exuberance. Must be possible in the presence of pain and sorrow! ● Heb. 12:1-2. Related to glory!

Carnal

B. Secular definition: The emotion excited by the expectation or acquisition of good. Gladness. Delight. Good feeling.

1. SAMUEL DICKEY GORDON'S analysis:

"Joy is distinctly a Christian word. It is the reverse of happiness. Happiness is the RESULT of what happens of an agreeable sort. JOY has its springs DEEP DOWN INSIDE. And that spring NEVER runs dry, no matter what happens. Only JESUS gives that joy! He had joy, singing its music WITHIN, even under the shadow of the cross. It is an unknown word, except as Christ has sway within the heart of the Christian."

2. SIR WILFRED GRENFELL: "Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of men. (At the end of His life Jesus had none of these) It comes from DOING something WORTH WHILE." GAL. 5:6. SAL. GOAL. DOING!

* 3 PARTS:

Note: Our JOY at M.T. in 1979 will be in total proportion to the things we "do" here which are worthwhile. OR how much we serve OTHERS in 1979!!!

II. JESUS EXPERIENCED JOY IN HIS EARTHLY LIFE.

A. John 6:38. Obedience. *John 15:5-14. Fruit.
B. His obedience led to Joy thru Suffering. Heb. 12:2. *Phil. 2:5-14. Spirit of Joy.

Joy came lead a Savior to the cross!

Ill. (Fulton J. Sheen story.) American met with 22 men from Russia. All persecuted for Christ's sake. #1 Brainwashed 4 yrs., then put on a train of prisoners deliberate wrecked. Broke both hips. Rejoiced in Jesus. #2 Soaked in gasoline & set fire. Survived. Led praises to his Lord in N. Y. city! #3 He & 86 yr. old mother forced to live

on veg. from small garden. All! Persecuted for righteousness sake! **Not one word of complaint.** Mother small, thin, weak, but **praised God daily in Russia!!! Their cross!**

III. PAUL EXPERIENCED JOY IN THE HARDEST LIFE POSSIBLE

A. * **II Cor. 11:24-28.** Most joyful man in world!!!

1. *Phil. 4:4-5. Right viewpoint puts the (saved), Christian in a state of perpetual JOY! Phil. 4:11. 4:13.

RICHTER SAID: "Our joys are our wings of life. Our sorrows are our spurs!"

2. Phil. 4:6-7. God carries the **HEAVIEST** end of our load. * **I Pet. 5:6-11.** # *What can you do to feel?*

Joy can lead a man around the world!

IV. MIDTOWN CAN EXPERIENCE MUCH JOY IN 1979.

A. Begin in Christian **OBEDIENCE & SERVICE.** Matt. 6:33. Rom. 12:1-2. I Cor. 15:58.

THEODORE PARKER: "The JOY of Heaven begins as soon as we attain the character of Heaven and fulfill its duties."

B. JOY: when Chr. parents bring children and youth to our **B. S.** and see them **ROOTED & GROUNDED** in God's eternal truth!!!

Teachers study hard. Prepare well. Give students much: Eternal life. Rom. 1:16.

C. JOY: when members **VISIT** shut-ins, ill, sad, discouraged and blue. **Love lifts up!!!**

D. JOY: when seek the **LOST** and see them added to the Lord's Kingdom. **Note: Have a prospect???** **See an elder. See me. See Steve!** We will help. We will teach. We will see it through!!!

D. JOY: when our **MEN** accept all assignments for **JESUS.** Service to **Him!** A pleasure! **Any job!!!!**

F. JOY: when our **YOUNG PEOPLE** excell - Bible Study, Loving-projects, ALSO: School athletics, music, drama, journalism. Finest!! I Tim. 4:12.

F. JOY: when reputation of M.T. like that of church at Rome. Rom. 1:8. **FAITH. FRIENDLY. WARM. LOVING. SERVING. CROSS-BEARING.**

INV: How is your JOY right now? Saved? If not, Acts 2:38.

If delinquent, negligent & cool & indifferent: Think of Christ's **LOVE** for you. His **JOY!!!**

Identify, if in need of a church home!

a man's home & family his great joy. A CRIME to infringe upon the tranquility of a man's home.
M.T. 1-14-79 1/8 IR
Richmond, Ky. 4-23-79
LWV 5-31-92 P.M.

Dillon, Tenn. 6-4-92 P.M.

PHONE CALLS LETTERS