

John # 147

“Abraham Rejoiced” *John 8:54-59*

**There is fantastic encouragement from being in union with the Lord Jesus Christ and there is great comfort from relaxing in virtue love which is an expression of hope from living our lives by way of God’s agenda in the unique spiritual life He created for us to experience and enjoy His amazing grace.**

Paul’s point is that if anyone wishes to rejoice or have true joy and inner happiness, their single main objective must be the maximum glorification of God possible this side of Heaven.

*The significance of rejoicing is connected with hope which is confident expectation based solely on our faith in God and His promises to us.*

**Legitimate and lasting rejoicing must always be connected to cognition of God’s Word as His system for our processing of the mind of Jesus Christ.**

From this cognition, we will often have an emotional response but the emotion IS NOT the rejoicing, it’s only the response to the rejoicing which stems from recognizing God’s grace extended to us and that’s our very reason for rejoicing!

*The purpose of Christian fellowship is learning, understanding, believing biblical truth for application primarily in a Bible class under the mentorship of the Holy Spirit, so that our capacity for rejoicing may be enhanced and brought to completion.*

Rejoicing potentially can begin in spiritual childhood with the use of God’s basic grace solutions as a result of mastering His basic Bible doctrines.

**The initial experiencing of rejoicing is related to our consistent use of two power options: 1. The filling of the Holy Spirit and 2. The processing of biblical truth in our souls, along with the development and exercise of God’s basic grace solutions, which promote inner soul thinking producing powerful soul dynamics and a motivation to continue growing spiritually.**

When we first begin to learn the Word of God, there is enthusiasm and when we begin to understand some basic doctrines, there is excitement and new life in our souls.

*Biblical truth has produced a spiritual animation in us as promised and this is the beginning of us loving God!*

**Rejoicing is our awareness of our spiritual life as we make our hope in Christ a reality and this rejoicing can only be understood in relation to God’s love.**

Both rejoicing and love are thinking functions of the spiritual life in contrast to pleasure

which is  
emotionally based.

*Rejoicing and love are associated with virtue righteousness and in the mentality of the soul, not in the emotions.*

There are satanic traps associated with pleasure; 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:4 describes believers out of experiential fellowship with God as “*lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.*” **Rejoicing results from and actually is thinking biblical truth and the result is peace and harmonious, intimate rapport with God.**

Rejoicing is occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ as a system of thinking in contrast to emotion.

*Happiness is the enjoyment of someone’s status, circumstances and relationships in life and blessedness refers to happiness related to God and His plan of grace and rejoicing is a relationship to something; a relationship to God’s prosperity!*

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Rejoicing is related to the Essence of God Who is perfect, His character is perfect.

**God is omniscient, His genius makes Him happy and God sovereign and He has decided to share His happiness with us so that we can rejoice with Him!**

It is impossible for God to be unhappy and so, rejoicing is related to the plan of God in which God found a way to give us His happiness without compromising His character.

*Rejoicing stimulates and enhances our capacity for love.*

We can build something to rejoice in from the balance of residency of biblical truth through the filling of the Holy Spirit daily causing us to reach spiritual maturity and glorify God until it’s time for dying grace.

If we are not promoted by God the Father, we are not promoted, period.

**Joshua 3:7 And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today (after 40 years of training!), I will begin to exalt (magnify or promote) you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses.”**

*1st Peter 5:5-6 “In the same way, you who are younger (in the faith referring to the congregation), submit yourselves to your elders (pastors). All of you, clothe yourselves with humility (a relaxed mental attitude of authority-orientation) toward one another (Gr. heteros of a different kind) because God opposes (lit makes war with) the proud (the arrogant believer) but shows favor to the humble (the authority-oriented believer). 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”*

**Religion does not stand up under logical scrutiny with or without biblical truth supporting it.**

Religion cannot because it will not receive truth.

*When God has a plan for our lives, the devil himself cannot kill us!*

But when God’s plan calls for termination, no one can keep us here, no matter how hard they try.