

JOY

BY: DICK PENDLETON

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Scripture tells us that one result of having the Holy Spirit indwelling is – Joy. Eugenia Price, in one of her excellent books calls joy, “god in your blood”. That has a nice ring to it and I like that but it is still pretty allegorical. I searched for something that would help a grubby engineer understand. Each of the other aspects of Abba’s personality have immediate impact, both intuitive and practical. With peace, patience, mercy, goodness, longsuffering, and kindness we instinctively feel we know what it is and we also recall times and events from our own experiences that define the terms. Joy, it seems to me, is not so easy, especially if our walk with the Lord is not very intimate.

Peace comes when, deep down inside us we know that all important things are settled and we can rest secure and safe. Peace dwells inside us in that same region that turmoil rises up. Joy is related to things outside ourselves. Peace is largely related to the mind. Joy is largely related to the spirit. Joy rises up when our spirit touches some pleasant spiritual person or thing, creating an emotion far beyond mere pleasure. I recall a time, a few years back. It was October and I went to a small park up in the Black Hills called ‘Spring Creek’. I went to pray, meditate, and spend time alone with Abba. I have done that a lot the past seventeen years. It was a beautiful Fall day and I had a problem. I do not now remember the problem, it has long since gone away. I was praying, hoping for a feeling of personal contact with Abba. I know He is always with me but often I really want some feelings to go along with that knowledge. As I was asking, no begging, for Him to make Himself known to me a gentle breeze began blowing directly in my face and soon I was being showered with multi-colored Fall leaves. Joy, unspeakable, filled me as the presence of Abba was all around and all over me. Joy came because my spirit had been touched in a special way by Abba’s Spirit and the response within me could only be called – Joy.

We are happy when things in our lives happen to happen happily. We are peaceful when basic issues are settled deep down inside. Joy, however is not just inside. Joy comes like a spark when something, someone, wonderful contacts us and ignites something in us. My personal belief is that for many of us Christians, there is a level of joy resident within us, somewhere below the level of conscious thought, that is just waiting to be

activated by the touch of god. When it is activated, rising up and bursting forth, it is indeed unspeakable {beyond words} and full of glory.

But wait. The purpose of these writings is not to describe us and our joy. It is to discuss the personality of God, our Abba. We are touched by joy from time to time. He is full of joy and overflowing. How can this be? If joy is created by contact with some pleasant thing outside oneself, where can God find something outside Himself. He has you! He has me! Though we have Him dwelling in us, yet we have free will which is outside Him. We were created, in large part, that our Creator, our god, our Abba might know joy – in and with us. This must be one reason we are described as god's inheritance. We do not inherit Him, He inherits us. We are His eternal treasure. We are His crown and jewels. It is Abba's joy to make intimate contact with His bride. This is why, many times in scripture, the relationship between Abba and His people refers to 'knowing' with sexual overtones quite implicit. In the past decade, there has been an impressive quantity of Christian writings about 'intimacy' with god. We ARE His joy and that joy is created, both in us and Abba, by explicit times of intimacy. Let joy arise, filling us and, just as importantly, filling Abba's heart as well.

Again, scripture tells us clearly that we are His inheritance. In our minds we are tempted to twist that around and think that it is we who are receiving from God. It is just as true that God is receiving, not from us. God is receiving us. **We are** His inheritance. We are His delight. We are His joy. We are His kids. In all the scheme of creation plan after plan has been applied for purpose after purpose but at the very top of all God's plans there is the culmination, the ultimate reason for creation. That ultimate reason is you. That ultimate reason is me. It was for this purpose that Satan was allowed to tempt and Adam allowed to fall. It was for this purpose that Abba revealed Himself to and through the Israelites and for this purpose Jesus came, died, and rose again. You are that purpose and it brings joy to Abba that you have responded as He greatly desire.

Heb. 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

LET THIS JOY BE IN YOU THAT WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS!

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