

“The Best Joy”

If you ask anybody to express to you what they consider joy to be you would get an array of answers. Most people would equate joy to a specific moment, perhaps a person, or an object. I would bet to say that most people, Christians alike, can point to many different types of joyous moments. For instance, the birth of their child, the day they were married, a big promotion, winning a championship or some big contest or competition, closing a big business deal, buying their first home, or getting their first car, graduating from High School or University, overcoming a sickness, surviving an accident, and the examples can go on. All of these are valid and certainly should be cherished as joyous moments, however, there is still even A higher joy that begs for us to discover it. It is a joy that most never get to experience, yet when they do it is an amazing experience that puts all other joyous moments or feelings in perspective. The joy I refer to is unspeakable and unmatched to any other joy that you may have experienced. It is the joy that I experienced recently...a joy that you cannot be robbed of ever. The joy I speak of is the joy of leading another person to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Have you ever experienced that joy? What greater joy could there be than winning a soul for Christ or turning a sinner from the errors of his ways, therefore saving him from eternal death and damnation? (Jas 5:20).

When the apostle John speaks of “making our joy complete” (1 John 1:4), he is referring to the joy in knowing that others have come to know Christ. His joy would stem from knowing that the Gospel was reaching people and changing lives. There is yet another dimension of this joy and that is the joy that comes from knowing that you are pleasing God because of your obedience. The obedience that you display has led a sinner to Christ. Through your efforts in observance and obedience to Jesus’ command to go and make disciples of all nations teaching them to obey... (Matt. 28:19-20), another person becomes aware of the great life that awaits them in the Lord. That person, who now begins to live a godly life and is encouraged and inspired because of what you did in obedience to God, begins to affect others for Christ through his life. The great chain reaction begins all to the Glory of God. It is incredible!

Recently, I attended the wedding of a longtime associate and recognized true joy when I realized that his life has turned around. This brother in Christ (he is no longer an associate) had turned from the errors of ways and found Christ again. The metamorphous is nothing short of amazing. His returning to God has already changed his relationship with his family. His wife recently accepted Jesus as Savior and both are committed to living their newly-joined lives for Christ. These results are because I was obedient to the Lord’s specific instructions and calling upon my life. At that wedding, I realized how important it is to be obedient to God’s call and assignment because through those acts of obedience God will work. The joy that will come from knowing that your obedience to God has affected another life and, therefore, that life is now a new creation is truly the best joy!

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