

Faith Rejoices Part 3

Nehemiah 8:8-10 (NLT)

They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage. 9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were interpreting for the people said to them, "Don't mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the LORD your God." For the people had all been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. 10 And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!"

They were returning to Jerusalem and returning to God. They read the Bible to the people for ½ the day and then the priest taught the people and they began to weep.

Same thing in James:

James 4:8-10

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

It's not God condemning us. It's our own heart/conscience...

1 John 3:20 (NLT)

Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything.

1 John 3:20 (TPT) 20 Whenever our hearts make us feel guilty and remind us of our failures, we know that God is much greater and more merciful than our conscience, and he knows everything there is to know about us.

CONT...

1 John 3:21-24 (NLT)

21 Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. 22 And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him. 23 And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. 24 Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us.

1 Corinthians 4:3-5

But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. 4 **For I know nothing by myself**; yet am I not hereby justified: but **he that judgeth me is the Lord**. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

The thoughts and the feelings can be very persistent; that's why we must be very persistent. The Truth will lift us up out of the oppression of the enemy and the depression.

We cannot be sorry and joyful at the same time.

John 8:31-32

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; [John 8:31-32 (NLT) Jesus said to

the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.] 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

1 Peter 1:5-6

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 Wherein **ye greatly rejoice, though** now for a season, if need be, **ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:**

So, which is it?

Your faith is being tried (dokimadzo) for a season...

dokimazō- to scrutinize for weakness as with metals (sword before battle)

We need joy! That’s why he said to do it all the time. *What time is it?*

Phil 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

(NLT) 1 Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.

(TPT) 1 My beloved ones, don’t ever limit your joy or fail to rejoice in the wonderful experience of knowing our Lord Jesus! I don’t mind repeating what I’ve already written you because it protects you—

1 Peter 1:7

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

If your faith is being tried, you are being tempted to despair, to quit & surrender to your feelings of “why bother; what’s the point?”

Faith & joy are power the twins.

If we are not rejoicing, we are not looking at the right thing. Because, in this world, things are never, 'always' going to be okay. As soon as one thing is fixed, there's going to be something else. It takes faith to overcome. You don't have to look hard to find something to be upset about. But it takes faith to look past it by faith and find what you can shout about.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NLT)

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. 17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! 18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

1 John 5:4-5 (NLT)

For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. 5 And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

Faith will give thanks and praise God for the blessing of family when it seems like the family is being torn apart. Faith rejoices at adversity. Faith laughs.

Job 5:22

At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth.

Yielding to depression will bring us down to a place where we have no strength and no hope. That is why the enemy works so hard to bombard us with lying thoughts: "there's no hope" etc...

That won't change anything. BUT GOD CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING.

Psalms 27:13-14

I had fainted, unless I had believed

to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

14 Wait on the LORD:

be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

When your face turns to him, joy begins to bubble up and then hope begins to rise.

That is why He said to rejoice all the time:

- Philippians 4:4
Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.
 - Philippians 4:4-5 (NLT) 4 Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! 5 Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.
 - Philippians 4:4 (TPT) 4 Be cheerful with joyous celebration in every season of life. Let joy overflow, for you are united with the Anointed One!
 - Philippians 4:4 (BBE) 4 Be glad in the Lord at all times: again I say, Be glad.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice evermore.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16 (BBE) 16 Have joy at all times.

If you are believing, you are rejoicing...

1 Peter 1:8

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Hebrews 3:6

But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold

fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the [hope] (the best is yet to come) firm unto the end.

The house of the Lord is a rejoicing house.

Hebrews 10:22-25

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25 (CEV)

Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord's coming is getting closer.

Philemon 1:4-7 AMPC

I give thanks to my God for you always when I mention you in my prayers, Because I continue to hear of your love and of your loyal faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and [which you show] toward all the saints (God's consecrated people).

[And I pray] that the participation in and sharing of your faith may produce and promote full recognition and appreciation and understanding and precise knowledge of every good [thing] that is ours in [our identification with] Christ Jesus [and unto His glory].

For I have derived great joy and comfort and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints [who are your fellow Christians] have been cheered and refreshed through you, [my] brother.

Ephesians 4:29-32

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Psalms 16:8-10

I have set the LORD always before me:
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth:
my flesh also shall rest in hope.
For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell;
neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

John 14:27-28

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. 28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. **If ye loved me, ye would rejoice**, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

2 Corinthians 4:13-18

13 -- We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; 14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. 15 For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. 16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

The joy of the Lord is your strength. How do you get that joy and get it full, by not focusing on the elephant, but focusing on the Truth.

God is not going to make us walk by faith. We have to yield to the Spirit of Faith. Yielding to faith will cause joy to get stronger just like yielding to depression will cause despair to get stronger.