

## Faith Rejoices Part 4

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 had returned

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.

The importance of not forsaking church service... Church is a type of reset:

- Like a bath where you get washed from the filth of the world
- Like a massage where you get the kinks worked out
- Like physical therapy where you learn exercises to heal the injury
- Like occupational therapy where you learn how to fulfill “new” tasks where you had been limited
- Like visiting a nutritionist where you evaluate your “food” intake
- Like a doctor’s office where you are in a clinical setting to receive professional treatment

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—

(ERV) 1 And now, my brothers and sisters, be filled with joy in the Lord. It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again. I want to be sure that you are prepared. *(the next verses are warnings about religion)*

(NCV) 1 My brothers and sisters, be full of joy in the Lord. It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it will help you to be more ready.

#### Colossians 3:1-4

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

#### Colossians 3:1-4 (NLT)

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. 3 For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.

#### Colossians 3:1-4 (ERV)

You were raised from death with Christ. So live for what is in heaven, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Think only about what is up there, not what is here on earth. 3 Your old self has died, and your new life is kept with Christ in God. 4 Yes, Christ is now your life, and when he comes again, you will share in his glory.

Colossians 2:23 - 3:4 (CEV)

You have been raised to life with Christ. Now set your heart on what is in heaven, where Christ rules at God's right side. 2 Think about what is up there, not about what is here on earth. 3 You died, which means that your life is hidden with Christ, who sits beside God. 4 Christ gives meaning to your life, and when he appears, you will also appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4 (BBE)

If then you have a new life with Christ, give your attention to the things of heaven, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Keep your mind on the higher things, not on the things of earth. 3 For your life on earth is done, and you have a secret life with Christ in God. 4 At the coming of Christ who is our life, you will be seen with him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4 (TPT)

Christ's resurrection is your resurrection too. This is why we are to yearn for all that is above, for that's where Christ sits enthroned at the place of all power, honor, and authority! 2 Yes, feast on all the treasures of the heavenly realm and fill your thoughts with heavenly realities, and not with the distractions of the natural realm. 3 Your crucifixion with Christ has severed the tie to this life, and now your true life is hidden away in God in Christ. 4 And as Christ himself is seen for who he really is, who you really are will also be revealed, for you are now one with him in his glory!

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?**

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 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... **He wants us to constantly talk about the problem.**

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) 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.

Psalms 16:8-10 (ESV)

I have set the LORD always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.  
9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

my flesh also dwells secure.

10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.

Psalms 16:8-11 (CEV)

I will always look to you,  
as you stand beside me  
and protect me from fear.

9 With all my heart,  
I will celebrate,  
and I can safely rest.

10 I am your chosen one.  
You won't leave me in the grave  
or let my body decay.

11 You have shown me  
the path to life,  
and you make me glad  
by being near to me.  
Sitting at your right side,  
I will always be joyful.

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.