

The Kingdom is... Part 3

Romans 14:17

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Meat, then: to eat or not to eat.

Today, vaccines, to take or not to take. Church, to open or not to open.

Kingdom of God is not temporary things. It is spiritual things. It is things that will last forever.

“What’s the big deal about peace? Either you have it or you don’t.”

“What’s the big deal about Joy? Either have it or you don’t.”

No, these are spiritual realities that we must learn about and grow in. This is the kingdom.

This life is the kingdom: righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

There is no such thing as being in faith and having no joy or peace. NO, NO & NO. If you are a believer, you have joy & peace.

You can’t be in faith and be filled with depression.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Believing, resting, & rejoicing are choices. They are responses to the Lord.

Matthew 18:3-4

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

We are not talking about ignorance. The scripture says to study to show yourself approved. We are talking about how we respond...

We have learned to respond in fear.

We must learn to respond to the God of all hope BY OBEDIENCE – REJOICE!!

Three times a year they were commanded to go to Jerusalem to worship God the way that he said... Pesach (Passover), Shavuot (Weeks or Pentecost), and Sukkot (Tabernacles, Tents or Booths)

Deuteronomy 12:4-14 (NLT)

“Do not worship the LORD your God in the way these pagan peoples worship their gods. 5 Rather, you must seek the LORD your God at the place of worship he himself will choose from among all the tribes—the place where his name will be honored. 6 There you will bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, your sacred offerings, your offerings to fulfill a vow, your voluntary offerings, and your offerings of the firstborn animals of your herds and flocks. 7 There you and your families will feast in the presence of the LORD your God, and you will rejoice in all you have accomplished because the LORD your God has blessed you. 8 “Your pattern of worship will change. Today all of you are doing as you please, 9 because you have not yet arrived at the place of rest, the land the LORD your God is giving you as your special possession. 10 But you will soon cross the Jordan River and live in the land the LORD your God is giving you. When he gives you rest from all your enemies and you’re living safely in the land, 11 you must bring everything I command you—your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, your sacred offerings, and your offerings to fulfill a vow—to the designated place of worship, the place the LORD your God chooses for his name to be honored. 12 “You must celebrate there in the presence of the LORD your God with your sons and daughters and all your servants. And remember to include the Levites who live in your towns, for they will receive no allotment of land among you. 13 Be careful not to sacrifice your burnt offerings just anywhere you like. 14 You may do so only at the place the LORD will choose within one of your tribal territories. There you must offer your burnt offerings and do everything I command you.

Rejoice, Heb. śâmāh - cheer up, be (make) glad, (have, make) joy(-ful), be (make) merry, to rejoice, be glad

Pentecost:

Deuteronomy 16:10-11

10 And thou shalt keep the feast of weeks unto the LORD thy God with a tribute of a freewill offering of thine hand, which thou shalt give unto the LORD thy God, according as the LORD thy God hath blessed thee: 11 **And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you**, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.

Rejoicing was no more optional than the meeting itself.

Who rejoices? The singers? The designated rejoicers?

Tabernacles:

Deuteronomy 16:13-15

Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles seven days, after that thou hast gathered in thy corn and thy wine: 14 And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite, the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within thy gates. 15 Seven days shalt thou keep a solemn feast unto the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD shall choose: because the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thine increase, and in all the works of thine hands, therefore **thou shalt surely rejoice.**

Tithing:

Deuteronomy 26:1-2

And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possesseth it, and dwellest therein; 2 That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there...

Deuteronomy 26:10-11

And now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God: 11 And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you.

Deuteronomy 28:45-48

Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee: 46 And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever. 47 Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; 48 Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

If you don't rejoice in God's goodness, you end up tricked and deceived and serving your enemies.

We have something to rejoice about. We have been delivered...

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Nehemiah 8:10 (AMP) Then [Ezra] told them, Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet drink, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. **And be not grieved and depressed**, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and stronghold.

There is victory for believers! The Truth will make you free!!

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord **always**: and again I say, Rejoice.

Suggestion or commandment and requirement?

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Examine the language: there is no “try” or “do your best”.

Rejoice, Verb: χαίρω (*chairō*), GK 5897(S 5463), 74×. *chairō* means “to rejoice, be filled with joy” (Jn. 3:29; Acts 8:39). It is the opposite of mourning (Rom. 12:15).

- Romans 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.
 - **Show genuine compassion for others. It doesn't mean to fo into the pit of unbelief and depression with them.**
- Hebrews 3:12-13 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

It can refer to feelings and can result from specific situations (e.g., Lk. 1:14; 19:6), **but for the believer, it is a constant state because of our relationship with Christ** (Phil. 4:4; 1 Thess. 5:16).

- John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.
- John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.
- 1 John 5:1-5 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 2 **By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.** 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

The first use of *chairō* in the NT describes the reaction of the Magi when they see the star that leads them to Christ (Mt. 2:10). Thus from the beginning of the NT, Christ is a source of joy for

all who find him. Christ's earthly work is also a source of rejoicing for the Father, who is presented in Jesus' parables as rejoicing in reconciliation with his lost children (Mt. 18:13; Lk. 15:32).

Christ's disciples rejoice in his miracles (Lk. 19:37) and his resurrection (Jn. 20:20). When they are joyful, and perhaps proud, that the demons have submitted to them, Jesus tells them that their rejoicing should rather be in their salvation (Lk. 10:20).

- Luke 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Paul in his letters teaches that a spirit of rejoicing transcends all earthly circumstances and that Christian joy is actually proven through hardship (2 Cor. 6:10; Col. 1:24).

- 2 Corinthians 6:4,10 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, 10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.
- Colossians 1:24 (KJV) 24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

Though he wrote his letter to the Philippians from prison, in the midst of personal suffering, Paul maintains a steadfast spirit of rejoicing (Phil. 1:18; 2:17; 4:10; cf. Acts 16:25). In turn, he instructs the Philippian believers to "rejoice in the Lord." (3:1; 4:4).¹

¹ Mounce, W. D. (2006). [*Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*](#) (pp. 573–574). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.