



# EVERGREEN


HOPE IS BORN - CHRISTMAS 2020

“Fuel for Joy”

*December 13, 2020*

“Our money is ourselves. It is our very life, our daily work, our time and strength and skill, our very life-blood minted into coin.

When we hold our money in our hands we are holding so many minutes and hours and days of our life, just so much of the vital force as has been expended in its acquisition, so much of our toil and time



[So] when we give, we are literally giving our life for our fellow men—to help, to heal, and to save them. Giving is, in reality, laying down our lives for others—losing our lives for Christ’s sake that we may find them in a larger fellowship with Christ in the world’s redemption.

As we thus realize that our money-giving is self-giving, our stewardship merges into a glorious partnership, not only with Christ, but also with all those who in any way are at work forwarding the kingdom.”

- *Guy Morrill*





“... the holy fire that keeps our purpose warm,  
and our intelligence aglow.” (Helen Keller)

“Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love.  
Joy is a net of love, by which you can catch  
souls.”

(Mother Teresa)

“The serious business of Heaven.” (C.S. Lewis)



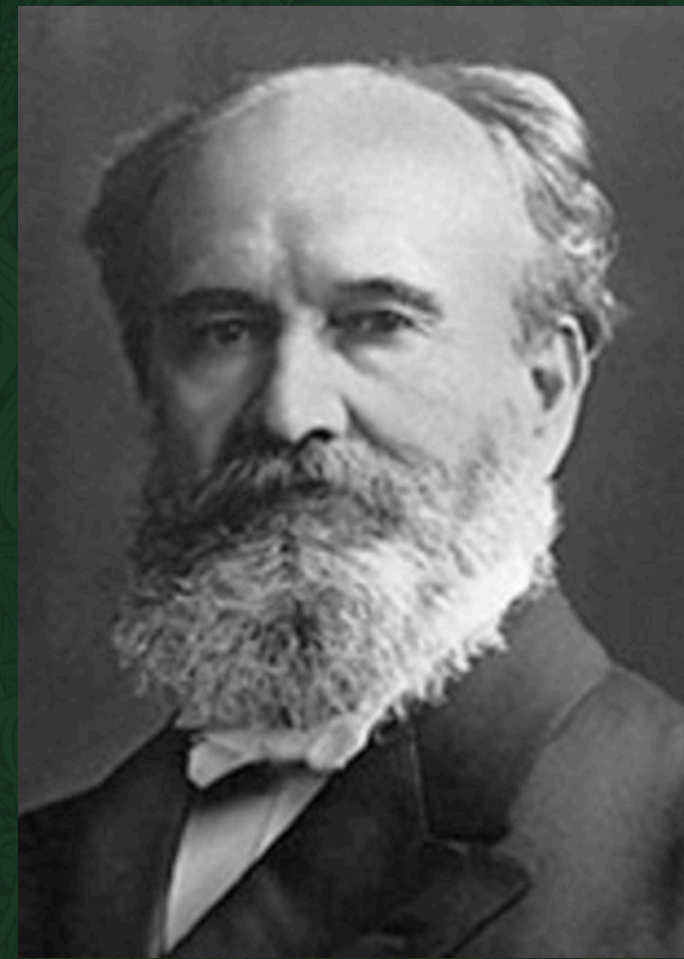
# Acts 13:52 NASB

And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.



“It is not to the honor of our gracious Master that we should sit under juniper trees, hang our harps upon willows, and walk about the world in the shadow of death and despair.

‘I won’t be unhappy,’ said a fine old saint; ‘It is all I have to give to God, and I will praise Him and glorify Him by a happy face and a radiant life.’”



A.B. Simpson



*Some murmur when their sky is clear and wholly bright to view,  
If one small speck of dark appear in their great heaven of blue.  
And some with thankful love are filled if but one streak of light,  
One ray of God's great mercy, gild the darkness of their night.*

*—Richard Chenevix Trench*





Joy in God is at the center of the Christian experience now, and will be for all eternity.

Joy in God is at the heart of the gospel.

Joy in God drives us to evangelism and missions.

Joy in God makes enduring trials and pain possible



Joy in God is the expulsive power of a new affection that drives out the loving affections we naturally have for sin.

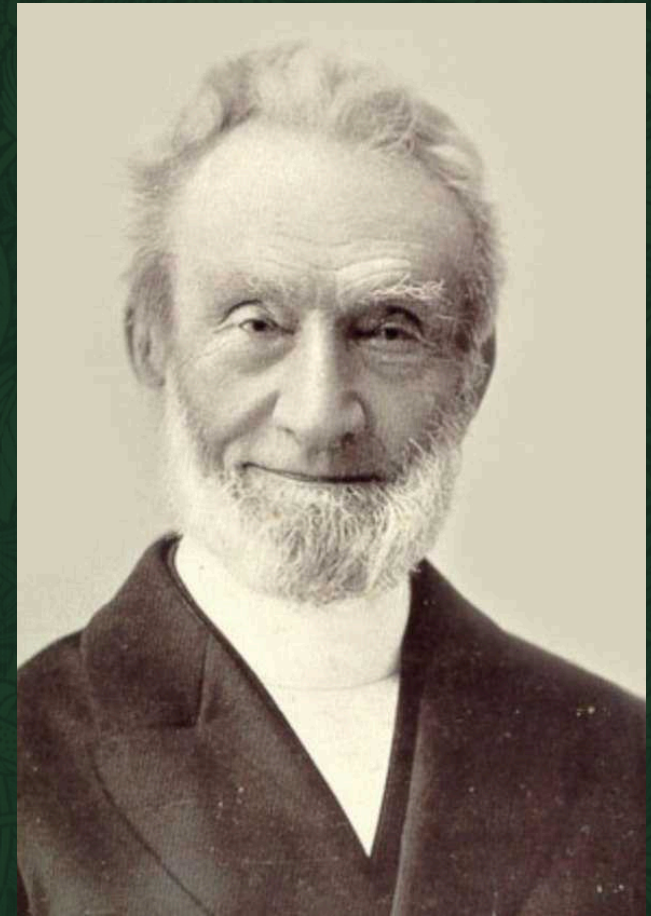
Joy in God is the mutual aim of our fellowship. The Christian life, from start to finish, centers on Joy in God.

It's the marrow of religion; it is the note we tune our souls to, every day and every hour.”

- Tony Reinke

“I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day, was to have my soul happy in the Lord.

The first thing to be concerned about was not how much I might serve the Lord, but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man might be nourished.”



George Mueller





# Jesus' Deity Demonstrated

1. By supernaturally knowing this man's sins.



# Jesus' Deity Demonstrated

1. By supernaturally knowing this man's sins.
2. By declaring this man's sins to be forgiven.



# Jesus' Deity Demonstrated

1. By supernaturally knowing this man's sins.
2. By declaring this man's sins to be forgiven.
3. By his omniscience in knowing the thoughts of the scribes.



# Jesus' Deity Demonstrated

1. By supernaturally knowing this man's sins.
2. By declaring this man's sins to be forgiven.
3. By his omniscience in knowing the thoughts of the scribes.
4. By healing the man.










# JOY

#INSIDEOUT



# Our Spiritual Paralysis (Inability)

- Dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:3, Col. 2:13)
  - Hostile to God (Rom. 8:7)
  - Unable to submit to God's law (Rom. 8:7)
  - Unable to please God (Rom. 8:8)
  - Unable to grasp the things of God (1 Cor. 2:14)
  - Unable to accept the Holy Spirit (John 14:17)
- 

# Our Spiritual Paralysis (Inability)

- Unable to hear the words of Christ (John 8:43)
- Unable to see the light of the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4)
- Convinced the gospel was foolishness (1 Cor. 1:18)
- Not seeking for God (Rom. 3:11)
- Deceitful & desperately wicked in heart (Jer. 17:9)



# Ephesians 2:12

[We] were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.



# Question:

“What do you think you need right now - *more than anything else* - to make you truly happy, or joy-filled?”



“Without the power of forgiveness operating in my life right now, I remain alone and unloved, uncared for by anyone who is fully committed to my well-being, locked into an existence with no point, tired of living and scared of dying, capable of enjoying only those pleasures that mask reality and increase my sense of emptiness.

Relationship with God, established and maintained by his forgiveness, provides the only framework within which we can be concerned with our own well-being, without being wrongly self-centered.”

Dr. Larry Crabb





# Psalm 51:12

“Restore to me,  
the JOY of your  
salvation.”



