



The Serious Business of Heaven

Acts 16:11-40

Acts 16:11-15

So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.



Acts 16:11-15

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.



John 3:8

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.



1 Corinthians 2:3-5

And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.



1 Thessalonians 1:4-6

For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,



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Topics in Philippians

- Joy
- Unity
- Humility
- Affliction
- Warning
- The gospel
- Life-transformation
- Contentment



Our Joy is Commanded

Psalm 100:2

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.



Acts 16:16-40 (page 925)

Paul and Silas in Prison



Psalm 4:6-7

There are many who say, “Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!”

You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.



Deuteronomy 28:47-48

Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.



G.K. Chesterton
(1874-1936)

“Joy, which was the small
publicity of the pagan, is the
gigantic secret of the
Christian.”

C.S. Lewis
(1898-1963)

**“Joy is the serious
business of heaven.”**

C.S. Lewis
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“If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire: if you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them. They are not a sort of prize which God could, if he chose, just hand out to anyone.”

A.B. Simpson

(1843-1919)

“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.’”

John 15:11

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be full.



1 Corinthians 6:17

But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit
with him.



Frederick W. Faber
(1814-1863)

“There are souls in this world which
have the gift of finding joy everywhere,
and of leaving it behind them wherever
they go.”

1. God's steadfast love and care – Psalm 31:7
2. Your future reward for being persecuted – Matt. 5:12
3. Your name is written in heaven – Luke 10:20
4. Your participation in the harvest – John 4:36
5. The hope of the glory of God – Romans 5:2
6. Having been reconciled to God – Romans 5:11
7. By entering in to the joy of others – Romans 12:15
8. The truth that we possess – 1 Corinthians 13:6
9. Others who are walking in the truth – 2 John 1:4
10. God's just judgments – Revelation 18:20
11. Your coming marriage to the Lamb – Rev. 19:7
12. The coming new creation – Isaiah 65:18



Job 6:10 NASB

But it is still my comfort, and I rejoice in unsparing pain, that I have not denied the words of the Holy One.



Hebrews 12:2

...for the JOY set before him [Jesus] endured the cross.



Timothy Keller

(1950-2023)

“The universe is an endless ocean of God’s joy and glory. We are caught temporarily in a little drop of sadness here on earth. But eventually, it will be removed.”

Psalm 4:6-7

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