

The Joy of the Lord

by Jim Sayles

Many years ago, at the start of my walk with the Lord, a young woman came forward after the teaching with tears in her eyes and a look of helpless desperation on her countenance.

She confessed that she and her husband were experiencing a serious problem, and I presumed inaccurately, and with some trepidation, that she was going to ask advice about a marital problem, which I did NOT want to tackle.

What she revealed instead, after hearing my testimony about being delivered from intense occult involvements, was that she and her husband were being visited by a ghost.

The ghost, appearing in the form of a woman, frequently manifested whenever they were praying or doing a Bible study together.

At the same time their young children were having night terrors in which they saw wolves running up and down the hallways.

I asked her if they had gone to the pastor of the church we were attending at the time. She said that her husband refused to take this problem to the pastor, because he had experienced this same ghostly manifestation as a teenager.

At that time his parents took him to see their pastor, and the pastor advised them to seek the help of a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist, though, could discover no psychiatric cause for this “illusion.”

For that reason, her husband was unwilling to take the current manifestation of this same “ghost,” or their children’s night terrors, to the pastor.

I told the young woman that I would minister to them if the husband agreed to my visit, and a few days later she called to say that the children were in bed and they were ready for me to come over.

My wife, Peggy, was out of the house at a meeting, and as I prayed in preparation for the visit a heavy weight pushed me down on the bed and held me there.

It felt like I was having a heart attack, and I was helpless to do anything but to cry out, “Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!”

When the weight lifted, I stood to my feet as the tangible presence and power of the Lord filled me from the bottom of my feet to the top of my head, and I sang praises to the Lord all the way to their house.

When the young woman opened the door, I had an inordinate smile of intense joy on my face.

Without any polite greeting or formal explanation of what was happening, I spoke in a loud, authoritative voice, “Don’t worry. He’s here.”...(referring to the Lord). “Satan, in the name of Jesus Christ, be gone, and do not return to this household or this family!”

The “ghost,” a demonic manifestation, and the night terrors that the children were experiencing, were gone, and they did not come back.

Afterwards, of course, I explained and showed them in scripture, that they, too, were given authority over the enemy in Christ, if they received it by faith.

What I experienced in a powerful way was the joy of the manifested presence of the Lord in a situation and circumstance that only He, through my faith, could overcome.

“...*for the joy*...spiritual presence...*of the LORD is your strength.*”
Nehemiah 8:10 KJV

“Joy” in this passage is not the happiness of the flesh in a circumstance. It is the tangible awareness of His presence working in us and through us in a circumstance, giving us confidence in the situation. This is the “joy” that produces boldness, the joy of David running into battle with Goliath after his faith was tested by the lion and the bear. This is the joy of Paul and Silas in prison, in chains, singing praises to the Lord. This is the joy of a prophetic word coming forth through the Lord’s bondservants to set His people free from deception and bondage.

This is the joy of our relationship with the Lord that He desires for each and every one of us to routinely experience in all that we think, say, and do.

There is a kind of ecstatic joy that comes forth in praise, but the joy that Nehemiah identified as our **strength** comes through our “going” and “doing” in His name as the Holy Spirit directs, not as a religious act apart from the prompting and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

The joy of the Lord frequently comes over me when I am in intercessory prayer as the Spirit directs me to whom I should pray, and what I am to pray on their behalf, which is sometimes very unique.

It also comes to me when I am being directed by the Spirit of truth in what I am to write, and, from time to time, I have to get up from my computer, raise my hands in worship, and let thanksgiving flow forth from my spirit.

What kills joy, though, are sinful (against the will of God) thoughts, words, and actions. And when I am caught in any of these flesh-driven or, even, satanically inspired actions, I have to quickly repent and ask forgiveness.

Repenting is not merely asking the Father to forgive you for your angry response to your spouse, your temptation to lie, or thoughts generated from the uncontrolled, unrepentant areas of your flesh.

Repenting is a faith action in which the discomfort of the Holy Spirit causes you to know in the absolute sense, that you are offending the Father who knew you before the creation itself and knew that you would receive the Son, Jesus of Nazareth, who died for **YOUR** sin.

Yes, He died for the sins of all mankind, but He knew, before the egg was fertilized, that **YOU** would someday receive His son, Jesus of Nazareth as your Lord and Savior. And because of this incredible, awesome act **YOU** will live for all eternity in fellowship with Him.

One of the astonishing things that He has caused me to see with the eyes of my heart (spirit-mind connection) is that our eternal future is not static. We will not spend eternity floating around on clouds listening to harp music.

We will be engaged with Him in adventures that we cannot yet imagine. The first 1000 years beginning on the 9th day after our resurrection on 1 Tishri of God's calendar we will be back on earth with the "survivors," who did not take the covenant mark of the beast kingdom and did not persecute the body of Christ.

These will be in their natural bodies like we are now, and at the return of the Lord with His saints these will be "born again" just as we were at some point in our lives.

This will be a time during which the original will of God for mankind will be lived out in fullness both through us, and through those who accept the revelatory truth of God in Christ through our ministry.

Yet, at the end of the 1000 years Satan is released from "prison," though I can scarcely imagine how painful his "prison" (chains) and the prison chains of the fallen angels we call "demons" will be.

But those who are in their physical bodies, whether they have the Spirit or not, will be tested much like the testing that we will experience in the days immediately before the "great" (for believers) and "terrible" (for sinners) "***day of the Lord.***"

In freedom ministry, I frequently remind Satan and the demons who are afflicting the one who is receiving ministry, that both the person I am ministering to, and myself, will bear witness against them when they are judged by God.

I didn't make this up. The Spirit of truth confirmed that I would bear witness, along with all the saints, against Satan and his fallen angels that we call "demons."

And I can tell you, I am looking forward to that day, so much so that I remind Satan as often as possible of his impending punishment and doom.

What the Spirit of truth has given me is a glimpse, apart from my glimpse into the 1000-year millennial kingdom, of the fact that we will **know** HIM (Jesus Christ) as the Son in ways that are more intimate, encouraging, and exciting than we can possibly imagine.

AND that this ADVENTURE will continue Forever!

Why, then, would we compromise this brief life of flesh on the earth in any way, even as born-again believers? The fulfillment of the flesh apart from the response we make to the Lord in our thoughts, words, and actions, is not worth the eternal consequences and loss of reward.

In this life I have often regretted actions of my past knowing that I missed some great opportunity or some great adventure.

What concerns me now is that I might miss some great opportunity that would cause me to experience a more rewarding future in the millennial kingdom or whatever we will experience throughout all eternity.

And my walk is now, more alert and discerning than ever before.

Therefore: WHATEVER you are doing or thinking that is not guided, guarded, and inspired by the Spirit of truth, has eternal consequences, even in heaven.

May the Spirit of truth reveal this to you in all the same ways He has revealed it to me, so that you will eagerly and successfully pursue His truth, His will, and His covenant promises, and someday inherit the kingdom of God in all its fullness throughout eternity.

Hope to see you there! Maybe we will even adventure together.