

Unsearchable Riches

Unsearchable Riches The Joy Of The Lord

Ephesians 3:8

8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,
NKJV

Paul experienced tribulation.

2 Corinthians 11:24-29

24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness —

28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

NKJV

But he said...

2 Corinthians 7:4

4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.KJV

One of the most incredible experiences that I have ever witnessed is being around saints that are exceeding joyful in their tribulation.

I have been a witness to people like this many times.

- People who have been abused.
- People who have been abandoned.
- People caring for a child with special needs.
- People suffering from chronic health issues or a disability.
- People dying on their death beds.
- People who have lost a loved one.

You would expect them to be characterized by depression. You would expect them to be characterized by anger. You would expect them to be characterized by envy.

But, amid their pain and even their sorrow what shined through was this calm delight or cheerfulness that was not connected to their circumstances. They were experiencing what Paul experienced. They were exceedingly joyful in their tribulation.

What is their secret? What was Paul's secret?

The word joy comes from the Greek word chara (khar-ah'); It means cheerfulness or calm delight. Chara comes from the Greek word chairō (khah'-ee-ro); to be "cheerful", calmly happy or well-off; be well.

Joy is certainly something that we can experience due to favorable circumstances.

It is what the wise men experienced when they saw the star guiding them to Jesus.

It is what John the Baptist experienced at the coming of Jesus.

It is what the man in a parable experienced who found a treasure in a field.

It is what the disciples experienced when they returned to Jesus after their mission announcing that even demons were subject to them.

It is what the women experienced when the angel told them Jesus had risen.

It is what the disciples experienced after seeing Jesus ascend into heaven.

Joy is certainly something that we can experience due to favorable circumstances. This is natural. It just happens to you emotionally when you experience favorable circumstances.

But what Jesus promised his disciples after his departure was a joy that no man or no circumstance could take from them.

[John 16:22](#)

[22 Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. NKJV](#)

This joy is supernatural.

[How do we experience this supernatural joy?](#)

There is a joy that Paul called the joy of the Holy Spirit.

[1 Thessalonians 1:6](#)

[6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:](#)

[KJV](#)

Peter called this joy, joy unspeakable and full of glory.

1 Peter 1:8

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:

KJV

Supernatural joy is a happiness in the soul, produced by the Holy Spirit.

The Greek word for joy and the Greek word for grace are related. The Greek word for joy is the word chara. The Greek word for grace is charis. They both come from the Greek word chairo.

Chara or joy is a response to charis or grace. When the Holy Spirit enables us to see the grace of God, we experience the joy of the Holy Spirit that is joy unspeakable and full of glory.

This grace includes...

- The love of God in Jesus
- The forgiveness of sins in Jesus
- The hope of heaven in Jesus
- The new identity in Jesus

This joyful response to the grace of God is very important to us as disciples of Jesus.

- This joy is our strength.
- This joy is our witness.
- This joy is our way to edify other disciples.
- This joy has tremendous benefits for our overall health.

Proverbs 17:22

22 A merry heart does good, like medicine,
But a broken spirit dries the bones.

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Because of how important this joy is to our souls, the apostle Paul commanded his disciples to have it.

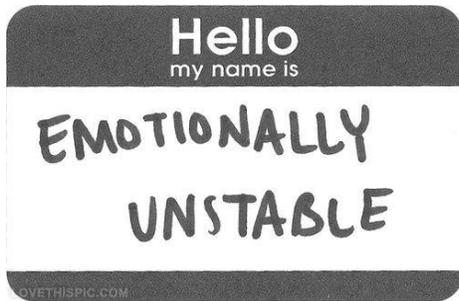
Paul said...

Philippians 4:4

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

NKJV

Why isn't there more supernatural joy in the church of Jesus Christ?



The church does not have a sufficient grasp of the gospel and the unsearchable riches of Jesus.

Why is this?

- We are ignorant about human depravity.

To grasp the grace of God, we must first grasp the depths of human depravity. Here is what Paul said about all human beings.

Romans 3:10-18

10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;

11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

13 "Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips";

14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness."

15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways;

17 And the way of peace they have not known."

18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

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Human depravity is a pollution by sin that makes every human being unprofitable. The word unprofitable means corrupt; thoroughly polluted; unsalvageable.

Your human body is not evil but it has been so polluted by evil that it is not salvageable. Your human body is decaying. There is within your human body a law called the law of sin that is causing the decay. There is not a better example of human depravity then your body.

And apart from Jesus Christ, your soul is in the same polluted and corrupt condition.

- We are ignorant about the holiness of God

One of the ways that the Holy Spirit reveals our human depravity is by enabling us to see the holiness of God.

Isaiah 6:1-5

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And one cried to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
The whole earth is full of His glory!"

4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 So I said:

"Woe is me, for I am undone!

Because I am a man of unclean lips,

And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;

For my eyes have seen the King,

The Lord of hosts."

NKJV

If we do not perceive the holiness of God and understand the depths of our depravity we still believe to some measure that we are deserving of God's love and our salvation.

- We are ignorant of the grace of God in Jesus Christ

Because of our ignorance of our human depravity and the holiness of God, we do not understand the grace God has shown us in Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

NKJV

If we would understand these three things; our human depravity, the holiness of God, and the grace of God in Jesus Christ, our joy would become like Peter's joy which he described as indescribable and full of glory. We would immediately stop complaining about our hardships like Job did and repent for our arrogance. We would be in awe of God and in awe that we are not in hell this very moment. We would not be able to contain our enthusiasm for Jesus and it would spill over on everyone near to you. We would not question why the righteous suffer because we would see that no one is righteous apart from the grace of God in Jesus. We would stop having any judgmental thoughts about others because we know that we have shared their corruption and apart from God's grace we are nothing.

May God reveal His holiness and our corruption to all of us that we might become the joyful
hedonist of God's grace that God intends for us to be.