

## No One Can Take Away Your Joy

### Scripture

“Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, ‘Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’? Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 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.” (John 16:19-22 NKJV)

### Devotion

It appears that Christ spoke to the disciples about His death and resurrection. Clearly they were in great sorrow at the thought of His death and the death of their hopes for a national revival for Israel. While Christ spoke clearly about His death and resurrection, the disciples were not able to understand.

When Christ was raised up from the dead by the Father and appeared to the disciples, they were overwhelmed with great joy. This joy erupted from a heart convinced by the power of God that what Jesus had promised was true. “He is raised!” echoed through their hearts!

We too have joy in the proof of His promises. We too look forward to His return. The Holy Spirit convinces us of His eminent return and our future glory.

“Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, [being] much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see [Him], yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of [your] souls.” (1Pe 1:3-9 NKJV)

No one can take away your joy for it is rooted in truth conveyed to the heart by God. However, we can abandon our joy if we abandon the Word. Notice:

Jesus said, “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. **These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and [that] your joy may be full.**” (John 15:9-11 NKJV; emphasis added)

We may also abandon our joy if we fail to pray. Notice the verse that follows our subject verse: “Until now you have asked nothing in My name. **Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.**” (John 16:24 NKJV; emphasis added)

We may also abandon our joy if we fail to fellowship with God and one another. Notice:

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and **truly our fellowship [is] with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.**” (1John 1:1-4 NKJV; emphasis added)

So you see while God has promised that no one can take away our joy, we can abandon it if we are not attentive to our faith. Joy comes from obedience, prayer, and fellowship with Jesus.

How is your joy today? Are you rejoicing in the Lord, or does salvation seem like something you did a long time ago? I tell you your salvation should be a daily source of joy. If it is not, then look to your spiritual disciplines. “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” (Eph 4:30 NKJV)

My friends do not rest until joy fills your heart again. If you have no joy, God has not left you, but you have left God. Repent therefore and return to the place of comfort.