



Essentials of Faith—Joy
Part Three Psalm 19:7-13

Pastor Dan Turpin

WestCoastChurch.com

Objective Sentence: Every leader should embrace the basic essentials of faith because they are the fundamental elements of one's spiritual life.

Introduction; C. S. Lewis: If we consider the ... staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Bible, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with alcohol, sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the beach. We are far too easily pleased [by that which really does not matter].

Read: Psalms 19:7-11,13 The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ the statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹ the fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired *are they* than gold, Yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *and* in keeping them *there is* great reward.

#1. The Statutes [Word] of the Lord are right rejoicing the heart (Psalm 19:8)

A. Leo Tolstoy: Joy can be real only if people look upon their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness. **Alexander MacLaren:** To pursue joy is to lose it. The only way to get it is to follow steadily the path of duty, without thinking of joy.

1. His Statutes (Proverbs 2:1, 10 My child listen to what I say, and treasure my commands ... for wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you will joy.)

a. Aquinas: People cannot live without joy; therefore when we are deprived of true spiritual joy it is necessary that we become addicted to worldly fleshly pleasures.

- b. *C.S. Lewis*: I sometimes wonder whether all pleasures are not substitutes for joy.
- c. **Proverbs 2:10** Treasure my commands ... for wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you will joy.
- d. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 [AMP]** Rejoice always *and* delight in your faith; ¹⁷ be unceasing *and* persistent in prayer; ¹⁸ in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful *and* continually give thanks *to God*; for this is His will for you in Christ Jesus.
- e. **Jeremiah 15:16 (AMP)** Your words were found and I ate them, and Your words became a joy to me and the delight of my heart; for I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.
- f. **Proverbs 10:28** The prospect of the righteous is joy, but the hopes of the wicked come to nothing.
- g. *Pulpit Commentary*: God's precepts rejoice the heart ... they are not felt as stern commands, but as gracious declarations of what God desires believers to do for their own good. (*Commands I love to Hate*)
- h. *Francis of Assisi*: Study always to have joy, for it benefits not the servant of God to show before his brother or another—sadness or a troubled face.
- i. *Wilbur Chapman*: My life is governed by this rule: Anything that dims my vision of Christ or takes away my taste from the Word of God or cramps my prayer life or makes Christian work difficult is wrong for me, and I must, as a believer, turn away from it.

2. **His Presence** (*Psalms 16:11 You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalms 91:1 He or she who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*)

- a. **John 15:4-5, 7** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
- b. **Galatians 5:22 (NLT+NKJV)** The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control. Against such there is no law.
- c. *Author Unknown*: If you make a practice of ignoring and not talking to God than He will, sooner or later, make a practice of ignoring and not talking to you. If you want God to talk to you; then you must talk to Him.
- d. *Brother Lawrence*: We ought to prepare ourselves to become in this life the most perfect worshipper of God we can possibly be since that is what we hope to be throughout eternity.
- e. **Ephesians 6:18** Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. *Pastor Dan*: One of the means the Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit in us giving us a prayer language where we can communicate with God on His level of understanding in Spirit and Truth.

f. 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying. Well then, what shall I do? I will pray in the spirit, and I will also pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will also sing in words I understand.

Closing and Invitation; Helen Keller: Your success and happiness lie within you. External conditions are the accidents of life, its outer wrappings. The great, enduring realities are love and service. Joy is the holy fire that keeps our purpose warm and our intelligence aglow. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulty. There is joy is self forgetfulness so I try to make the light in other's eyes my sun; the music in other's ears my symphony; the smile on other's faces my joy. *Hebrews 12:1-2* ... let us run with patience the the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross. Christ was able to approach the difficulty of life by focusing on what He gained through sacrifice rather than the price He would pay to obtain them.