JOY

Joy is described in various ways. Happiness, euphoria, glee, great pleasure, bliss, and many other words, are used to explain the word.

There are various reasons for a person experiencing joy. Paul had a relationship with the church at Thessalonica that was special, because they were so committed as Christians. “For what thanksgiving can we render again unto God for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;” (1Thess. 3:9)

Perhaps some cannot understand this but for the teacher-preacher, to hear or know that those whom they have helped convert to Christ are “continuing in the faith” indeed brings joy to the heart. The Apostle John expresses it this way. “Greater joy have I none than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.” (3 John 4) John was talking about his children in the faith, as Paul referred to Timothy (1 Timothy 1:2) The actions of our children or our “children in the faith” can be a source of great joy.

I suppose one of the things that brings most joy to us is when we receive the forgiveness of our since when we obey the gospel. Remember Philip and the Ethiopian in acts 8? “And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, for he went on his way rejoicing.’ (v. 29)

There are many things that bring the Christian joy: the restoration of a soul that has been lost; the news that a fellow Christian has triumphed over an illness; we received word recently my youngest nephew who has had a brain tumor for four years is now cancer free. Use your imagination to add to the list.

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