

Unlimited Joy from God's Unlimited Power

One of the most powerful scriptures in the Bible tells us of the ultimate Joy that is produced from God's Love working through His limitless power. Please read this as if for the first time, carefully, word for word:

¶ I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Paul was happy and proud to know the Gospel. Knowing salvation brought him joy beyond anything he had ever known. And for good reason! He knew that Christ was "in him," 2 Corinthians 13:5. He knew that the Holy Spirit was "in him," 1 Corinthians 6:19. What joy to know that both Christ and the Holy Spirit was in him, to comfort him and guide him and what confidence to know that his God answered his prayers.

WE can have that same joy, because we have the same blessings of the presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit and God's answer to our prayers! This is available to **"everyone who believes."** What greater gift can be given? What gift can bring more joy, confidence and peace of mind? ... Yes, there is something! Only one thing brings more happiness to our lives. The promise of heaven!! And this comes with, at the same time, in addition to all these blessings in this life, as an additional blessing from the same Gospel. This all comes through the **power of God**, presented to us by His Infallible Word.

Heaven, where **"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away," Revelation 21:3-4.**

Every time I read this I get a feeling of peace and joy. To think about our loving God, The Great Creator of the universe giving me, personally, His attention. Ensuring my happiness by enforcing His rules of **no more death or mourning or crying or pain**. Please read that last sentence again, slowly, word for word and meditate on it....

All of this is the result of believing the Gospel! The details of how to become a Christian and live the Christian life is written clearly by the Holy Spirit, **"For we do not write to you anything you cannot read or understand,"** 2 Corinthians 1:13.

In this time of giving, why not give The Greatest Gift? Let us encourage each other to give the gift that produces eternal joy, happiness, confidence and peace of mind! Let us give it personally, offering to share our personal experiences and assistance to our friends in arriving at the decision to obey the Gospel and serve our great God, which is the only way to possess a joyous life.

Think of that great reunion in heaven with all your friends and especially those who are there because you cared enough to share the Gospel, the great power of God which brings salvation to all that accept it!!

Wouldn't it be wonderful if your great personal reunion would include several, maybe hundreds of people who were there because you gave them the written Gospel? What would be the results of 100 earnestly seeking people receiving a copy of God's Word? How much of God's power is in the written Gospel? Maybe God tells us through His prophet Isaiah in chapter 55 verses 8-11:

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"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

God writes clearly. We can understand it. God's word, if spread among the people "**will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.**" The purpose of the Gospel is the salvation of souls, Romans 1:16. God, Himself, personally and clearly promises that His word will accomplish its purpose, i.e. the salvation of souls.

Before The Word was written God guided men to those who would listen and believe. Maybe the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26 ff.), the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:25 ff.) and Cornelius (Acts 10) might be examples of this. Have you ever wondered how many others benefited from God guidance of sincere Christians? God's Word is still alive and active (Hebrews 4:12) and will produce followers today as it did ever since the promise was made by Isaiah.

To return to my earlier question. "If 100 earnestly seeking people received a copy of God's Word" how many of those would accept God's Word? Yes, I know we cannot know exactly for every 100 Bibles given. Just think about how efficient would God be in fulfilling His own promise recorded in Isaiah? You decide. Consider this: If you were responsible for 100 copies of God's Word getting into the hands of sincere seekers, how many would you be responsible for getting into heaven? Think of your reunion in heaven with all those people who were there because you cared enough to give them a Bible!! Then think about a congregation that you inspired to make that their primary mission. After several years and thousands of Bibles delivered. Then how efficient will God be in fulfilling His promise made in Isaiah 55? Now think again of *that* reunion in heaven!!

There are two proven and effective works that have been successful for many years. They efficiently deliver Bibles to eager souls: Eastern European Missions (www.eem.org) and Bibles for China (biblesforchino.org [the last two letters, ro, stand for Royal Oak church of Christ 248-548-1333]).

EEM states an average cost of \$7.00 per Bible, B4C states an average cost of \$5.00 per Bible (printing costs are cheaper in China). Using the average of the two costs, \$6.00 per Bible, for every \$1000.00, 166 Bibles would be delivered. You decide how many of those Bibles God would guide into the hands of receptive souls who would spend eternity in heaven. If you used the \$1000.00 ten different times, that give 1666 souls. Extend the math for several years and the numbers are astounding!! Remember you can meet all these people on day in heaven.

Please think of the greatest gift, ... then give it!!