

# *Christian Joy*

by

A. S. LOIZEAUX



LOIZEAUX BROTHERS, Inc.

*A Nonprofit Organization, Devoted to the Lord's Work  
and to the Spread of His Truth*

19 West 21st Street



New York 10, New York

# CHRISTIAN JOY

## *Contents*

Joys of Salvation .....	3
Joy in God's Good Gifts .....	8
Joys in God Himself .....	13
Joy in the Lord's Spiritual Presence .....	17
Joys of the Christian Life .....	19
The Joys of Heaven .....	23
The Marriage of the Lamb .....	27

These chapters originally appeared as articles  
in **HELP AND FOOD** magazine.

Scripture Quotations from A.S.V.

## INTRODUCTION

This is a handbook of true joy. It begins with the JOY OF SALVATION which is the foundation of all true and lasting joy.

The joys of this world, apart from God, are illusive, deceptive and fleeting. We hear daily of suicide, murders, crimes, divorces, quarrels of unhappy people. Unhappy because they are alienated from God. They may have wealth, position and influence with men, but they lack true joy.

Psychiatrists agree that the greatest cause of unhappiness and distress is a sense of guilt: but few know the true remedy—God's full and free forgiveness of the repentant sinner through Jesus Christ and His shed blood.

A person at peace with God can enjoy every department of life. He enjoys nature, play, work, companionship of others, love, marriage, children, challenges, successes, fellowship with God and with Christians, and anticipation of the joys of Heaven.

Joy is the real lubricant of life, preventing friction and minimizing wear and tear.

Read this handbook of joy through. Keep it for convenient reference. Give copies to your friends.

A. S. LOIZEAUX

## JOYS OF SALVATION

We all need joy to live normal lives. We need dependable joy to live successfully. Joy gives zest and enthusiasm to all our activities. The oil of gladness is the lubricant that lessens the wear and tear of living, and reduces the frictions that inevitably occur in this world.

God intended His creature man to be happy, for God Himself is happy. He rejoices in the work of His hands, but His special pleasure is in the sons of men who love and obey Him. God's greatest delight is in His only Son. "This is My beloved Son, in whom is all My delight."

### **The Greatest Kill-Joys**

The original kill-joy and parent of all other kill-joys is sin. Our first parents were perfectly happy in Paradise until sin entered their lives. This sin broke the sweet fellowship with their Maker. Then fear and guilt spoiled their joy and separated them from God.

Sin breeds an awful progeny of lust, deceit, anger, pride, and lawlessness. These blighting sins produce a sense of guilt and fear. The person may not understand the cause of his unhappiness, but students of the mind have found that a sense of guilt is like an ulcer that will not heal. It plagues the mind and often affects health until the guilt is confessed and forgiven.

Fear is a paralyzing emotion that spoils all the normal joys of life. People fear the future. They fear war, ill health, poverty, bombs, and most of all they fear death.

What is the remedy for fear? The all-embracing cure is to know Almighty God as Father and Keeper. To have a sense of perfect security in His everlasting arms of love.

### **The Joy of God's Salvation**

As sin is the original source of guilt and fear, so God is

the original source of man's joy and happiness. Man was created by God in His image and likeness, and he was fashioned to thrive in the love and fellowship of His Maker. When separated from God by sin, it is impossible for man to be really happy, because he is out of tune with the music of his own constitution which proceeded from God. He may imagine himself happy for a time while engrossed with the world like the Prodigal in the far country. But inevitably the time will come when worldly pleasures fail to satisfy, and the soul begins to be in want. What the soul really needs is the love of the Father's heart: the unselfish joys and companionship of the Father's home.

### **The Joy of Forgiveness**

The first great step toward lasting joy is confession of sin. "Father, I have sinned." "God, be merciful to me a sinner." I have watched intently the struggles of a soul who had been self-righteous, but now was under conviction of sin by the Holy Spirit. There was pain and restlessness until the moment of surrender. Then when confession was made, joy flooded the soul and peace the conscience. The load of guilt was gone!

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,  
Whose sin is covered.  
Blessed is the man unto whom Jehovah imputeth not iniquity,  
And in whose spirit there is no guile.  
When I kept silence, my bones wasted away  
Through my groaning all the day long.  
For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me:  
My moisture was changed with the drought of summer.  
I acknowledged my sin unto thee,  
And mine iniquity did I not hide:  
I said, I will confess my transgressions unto Jehovah;  
And thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin

(Psalm 32:1-5).

### **The Joy of Peace With God**

Nobody can be truly happy when in constant warfare with God. The unsaved man has a heart which is at enmity with God, so there is constant antagonism when the claims of

God are presented. But when the sinner finally yields and is saved, there is blessed relief from this enmity, and a great joy of peace and love flood the heart.

Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ . . . and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God (Romans 5:1, 2).

“Peace, perfect peace  
In this dark world of sin!  
The blood of Jesus  
Whispers peace within.”

### **The Joy of Security**

Everybody needs security in the best sense. Not exemption from the labors of life, or its hazards and opportunities, responsibilities and personal choices. Every healthy and normal person welcomes these challenges to effort, talent, and personality. But we all need security from the great unseen powers of darkness. From the wicked who would seduce and destroy us. From the deceitfulness of our own hearts, and the judgment of God on our own sins.

This security is found in God. Those who have received Christ as Saviour have been born of God. They are His own children and are His forever. The new birth is just as irreversible as our first or natural birth. God's children are Christ's sheep. They shall never perish nor can any pluck them from His hand.

This eternal security of soul is good cause for perennial joy. Whatever else happens, this basic and eternal security remains.

“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine,  
O what a foretaste of glory divine.  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.”

The criticism that a knowledge of being eternally secure would make a person careless about sin is not true. God is well able to correct His children and He does. You might as

well claim that children would not love and obey their parents unless a threat of disowning and disinheriting them was the penalty for misbehavior. No, it is love that binds us to God in loyalty unlimited.

### **The Joy of Freedom from the Bondage of Sin**

This is another great joy which some Christians miss. Some believers struggle unsuccessfully against indwelling sin for years with continual defeat, and almost despair. Then if they find God's way of deliverance they call it a second work of grace, or the second blessing. Actually this freedom from bondage to sin in the life is available to all believers from the time of conversion. God has provided for this in the death and resurrection of Christ and in the grace of power of His Spirit. This great freedom is described and explained in Romans, chapters 6, 7 and 8. It is briefly described thus:

Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under law, but under grace (Romans 6:14).

But I say, Walk by the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).

The converted soul is a "new creature" in Christ Jesus. Scripture calls the saved soul the "new man." The "old man" is called "the flesh" and is crucified with Christ, and has no rightful authority over the life of a Christian. The new man is the real person, because he abides forever. The flesh is no longer myself but "sin that dwelleth in me."

The new man loves God and righteousness and is empowered by the Spirit of God.

### **Joy in the Word of God**

A sure sign of the new birth is a growing love for the Bible—the Word of God.

As newborn babes long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation (1 Peter 2:2).

The divine life which the believer receives at conversion must have spiritual food.

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (Matt. 4:4).

This word of God quoted by our Lord proves the necessity of regular reading of Scripture and meditation thereon. The tragic fact that so many Christians are feeble and stunted spiritually is because their souls are starved! They seldom partake of spiritual food. Many are spoon fed only once a week! What is the normal diet of a child of God? Jeremiah tells us of his experience thus:

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy words were unto me a joy, and the rejoicing of my heart (Jer. 15:16).

Notice that you must seek God's saying for every need of your life, and when you find the right passage it becomes the joy and rejoicing of your heart.

I recommend a Scofield Reference Bible and a good concordance for every Christian who seriously wants joy in his life, and then faithful and prayerful use of both. This really gets results. This is not drudgery. Listen to David:

How sweet are thy words unto my taste!  
Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth (Psalm 119:103).

Also listen to Job:

I have treasured up the words of His mouth more than my necessary food (Job 23:12).

Have you attained to this capacity of enjoyment of the Word of God, yourself? If not, set it as a goal before your soul. It is worth your best efforts to attain.

### **Joy in Prayer**

Prayer goes naturally with the Word of God. Prayer is our response to God's revelation of Himself, His commands, His promises, His warnings, and His loving entreaties.

Praise is a form of prayer. Asking of God is another form, and intercession for others is still another. What a priceless privilege to have access to and audience with the eternal God who hears and answers prayer!

There are many other causes for joy in the Christian life. Those we have mentioned are primary and fundamental.



## JOY IN GOD'S GOOD GIFTS

The joys of salvation were set forth in Chapter 1. These are fundamental. The joys of forgiveness, of security, of freedom. The added joys that come from the Word of God and prayer.

### **Manifold Joys of a Godly Life**

The joys that enrich the life of the devoted Christian, while based on salvation, are not confined to salvation. A vast field of happy and thrilling experiences is possible to the man or woman who walks with God and comes to know more and more of His wonderful works and His wonderful ways with the children of men.

### **The Joys of Nature**

Some writers of the old school belittled or denied the idea that the Christian should find joy in the common things of life. They forget that nature is God's handiwork and reflects His goodness, glory, and beauty.

Life and health are precious gifts from God to be cherished and enjoyed. These are often wasted by careless or ignorant or sinful habits.

Childhood is normally a time of carefree happiness. The parents' love provides every need and the security and joys of home. This is a parallel of the happiness we should possess as children of our Father in Heaven.

Youth brings its problems, and this is the age when conscious surrender to Christ should produce the joys of salvation set forth in the first chapter. These joys give spiritual strength and protect from sin.

The companionship and pleasures of youth can be wholesome and beautiful if Christ has the chief place in the heart.

## **My Father's World**

The constant sense of God's greatness as Creator and His love for me as my Father in Heaven, causes a joy in all things that He has made.

This great earth with its changes of seasons, its day and night, the sunrise and sunsets, its oceans and land masses, the mountains and fertile plains are all my Father's world.

A Christian called the attention of his guest to a lovely view over fields and stream and distant hills. He was rebuffed with the remark, "What pleasure has a heavenly man in an earthly view?" Later at dinner the guest asked for a second helping of the delicious peaches and cream. The host graciously complied, but asked his friend, "What pleasure does a heavenly man have in peaches and cream?"

## **The Human Body**

An ancient school of thought even held that the human body is essentially evil. They sought to combat the evil by inflicting pain and dishonor on the body. That was a total misunderstanding of the Scriptural injunction to mortify the flesh. The true meaning is that we should deny the sinful passions and desires of the old nature called "the flesh."

The human body is one of God's masterpieces, though sin has marred it. We should cherish and honor it. The believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

My Father's world is surrounded by heavenly bodies. Sun, moon and unnumbered stars. All these minister to our comfort and furnish cause for wonder and worship (Psalm 8:3-9).

## **Physical Joys**

These play a large role in life. They should not be despised because they are given of God.

Our Lord said, "I am the bread of life," and taught men to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." He gave thanks for the food He gave to the crowds.

Jesus gives the water of life and He made abundant wine of the best quality for the guests at a marriage feast.

Israel was given a land flowing with milk and honey.

Throughout Scripture God's people have enjoyed His temporal blessings, and we should do the same.

Every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it be received with thanksgiving, for it is sanctified through the word of God and prayer (1 Timothy 4:4-5).

This Scripture applies not only to food, but to clothing, housing, and every legitimate possession. *Every creature* is a very inclusive expression. We do not mean that physical joys are the objects of life, but they are happy gifts that accompany the supreme and eternal gift.

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not also with him freely give us all things (Romans 8:32).

### **The Joys of Human Love**

No one was ever really happy without love, and to be complete it must be in both directions, that is, it must be both received and given. Lovely examples of this natural love is seen in little children who are dearly loved and who return love to parents in the most artless and charming ways. This is natural love, yet is God-ordained, and flows from God. The world of human beings owes its existence, under God, to mother love. Human infants are so helpless that life depends on mother's love for nourishment and numberless services essential to well being.

### **Marital Love**

The love of husband and wife is fundamental to human life. It is the source of deepest satisfaction in nature. It is approved of God who made the first marriage and presented the first bride to her husband.

God uses this sacred relationship to illustrate the supreme love that He has for Israel, and that Christ has for His Church.

### **Joys of Parental Love**

Some of the purest and strongest joys are those that spring from love between parents and their children. God uses this love and joy in many Scriptures to illustrate His love for His children. The divine relationship of Father and Son in the Godhead is to express in language that we can understand the intense love of the Father for the Son and the Son for the Father.

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and every one that loveth is begotten of God, and knoweth God (1 John 4:7).

There is much joy in Christian fellowship. Those who are deprived of family relationship can find their parallels in the family of God.

### **Joy of Obedience to God**

Some may think that there is no joy in obedience. That depends on whom you obey. If you live only for self, you will be unhappy. If you obey every sinful thought, you will become the slave of sin and will be serving Satan. This course leads to despair and death.

If you obey God, you will be doing what is good and true and joyful. This is because God Himself is absolutely good and the source of every good and perfect gift.

### **The Paradox of Freedom in Obedience**

You might think that to have your own way in everything would be freedom. It would in fact be lawlessness, and lawlessness is the essence of sin. Jesus said:

If ye abide in [obedience to] my word, then are ye truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:31, 32).

The solution of the paradox is this. The Christian born of God has a new nature, and he loves righteousness. Therefore he delights to do God's will which is the expression of righteousness. Paul was the bondservant of Jesus Christ, but he was gloriously free in doing Christ's will because he loved his Lord.

When the Son of God came into the world He said: "I delight to do Thy will, O My God; Yea Thy law is within My heart."

### **Fear or Love the Motive?**

Communists are obedient to the "Party Line." They are closely watched, and fear liquidation for disobedience. Thousands are escaping monthly from iron curtain countries to freedom in the west.

Freedom in the United States is not freedom *from* law, but freedom *under* the law. Freedom without law would produce anarchy because evil men would prevail.

President Eisenhower has revised the pledge to the flag to include the words "*Under God*." This makes a good and true freedom for righteous persons.

"I Pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, UNDER GOD, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

An obedient child has real freedom in the home grounds within call of mother. Straying away from home, it may soon lose freedom and meet disaster.

We have pointed out in this chapter that the Christian life can be beautiful. We find causes for joy in all that God our Father has made, and in the relationships He has formed, as well as in the salvation He has provided.

It remains to study how the joy of the Lord can sustain us even through sorrow and trial; and finally, the supreme joys awaiting the righteous in the great consummation of God's plans.

## JOY IN GOD HIMSELF

The highest type of joy that a man can experience is the consciousness of fellowship with God and delight in God Himself. The Psalmist expressed this joy as follows:

Oh send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead me:  
Let them bring me unto thy holy hill,  
And to thy tabernacles.

Then will I go unto the altar of God,  
Unto God my exceeding joy;  
And upon the harp will I praise thee, O God, my God  
(Psalm 43:3, 4).

The explanation of the steadfast joy of the saints despite persecution and even martyrdom is that they possessed the very life of God by the new birth. This new life and nature enabled them to so apprehend the blessedness of sharing God's love and truth and grace and future glory, that this joy eclipsed all other emotions.

### **The True Knowledge of God**

When sin has been put away and man's spirit has been restored to God's favor, this relationship assures the sum total of blessedness. The Lord Himself expresses this supreme satisfaction as follows:

Thus said Jehovah, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he hath understanding, and knoweth me, that I am Jehovah who exerciseth lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith Jehovah (Jeremiah 9:23, 24).

### **Joy Superior to Earthly Conditions**

A proof of the supernatural source and quality of the joy of the godly is the fact that this joy and exultation in God is independent of earthly conditions. Listen to Habakkuk's testimony:

For though the fig-tree shall not flourish,  
 Neither shall fruit be in the vines;  
 The labor of the olive shall fail,  
 And the fields shall yield no food;  
 The flock shall be cut off from the fold,  
 And there shall be no herd in the stalls:  
 Yet I will rejoice in Jehovah,  
 I will joy in the God of my salvation.  
 Jehovah, the Lord, is my strength;  
 And he maketh my feet like hinds' feet,  
 And will make me to walk upon my high places  
 (Habakkuk 3:17-19).

And David says:

Thou hast put gladness in my heart,  
 More than they have when their grain and their  
 new wine are increased.

In peace will I both lay me down and sleep;  
 For thou, Jehovah, alone makest me dwell in safety  
 (Psalm 4:7, 8).

### **Joy in Worship**

Joy in God naturally expresses itself in worship. This takes various forms. Sometimes silent adoration, sometimes vocal praise and thanksgiving. One of the chief ways to express joy in the worship of God is by song. Song is praise set to music. One may sing alone and make music in the heart to the Lord, but the grandest expression of joy in worship is in a vast congregation singing praises to God.

“Hark! ten thousand voices crying,  
 ‘Lamb of God!’ with one accord  
 Thousand thousand saints replying,  
 Wake at once the echo’ng cord.

“Grateful incense this, ascending  
 Ever to the Father’s throne  
 Ev’ry knee to Jesus bending,  
 All the mind in heaven is one.”

### **Joy in Each Person of the Trinity**

The fuller light of New Testament revelation enables the

Christian to find special delight and satisfaction in each of the divine persons — Father, Son and Spirit. This enlarges our view as compared with the Old Testament saints, and enriches our knowledge of God with the peculiar glories and graces and offices of each person of the Trinity.

### **Joy in the Father**

Our Lord in His life on earth revealed the Father in Heaven as His Father and our Father. The One who has begotten us as His own children. One who loves us as He loves His Son. The One who cares for each of His children more than we care for ourselves, even to numbering the hairs of our head. This frees us from anxiety, and gives the priceless joy of divine security.

### **Joy in the Son**

The life of Jesus as portrayed in the Gospels is an unlimited source of joy as we trace His excellence, His moral beauty and grace. We say with John, “(we beheld His glory . . . as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth.”

Jesus is our Saviour, the One who died for our sins and rose from the grave for our justification. The love of Jesus is our chief treasure. “He loved me and gave Himself for me.”

“Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts,  
Thou Fount of life, Thou light of men,  
From the best bliss that earth imparts,  
We turn unfilled to Thee again.”  
Bernard

### **Joy in the Spirit**

The indwelling Spirit who came at Pentecost pours the love of God into our hearts, and fills us with joy. He is the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Christ. He makes the presence of both Father and Son real, and He abides in us forever!



The Holy Spirit is the seal of God's ownership of our bodies, and His power will change our mortal body of humiliation to be like Christ's body of glory — to inhabit God's heavenly kingdom for the eternal ages. Until that supreme moment, the Holy Spirit leads us, guides us, teaches us, searches with our spirits the deep things of God, and intercedes for us with the Father.

### **God Dwells in the Obedient Heart**

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him (John 14:23).

This promise is greater and more intimate than any found in the Old Testament. How is it fulfilled? It is accomplished in the obedient heart by the Spirit of God whom the Lord promised to send to abide with us forever. This is the secret of true joy; durable joy; indestructible joy — the triune God dwelling in the heart of the obedient believer, making that heart His home until the great day when Jesus shall come to catch His own away to the Father's House. Then God Himself will be our home forever.

In thy presence is fulness of joy;  
In thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore (Psalm 16:11).

## JOY IN THE LORD'S SPIRITUAL PRESENCE

"O God, Thou art my God; earnestly will I seek Thee:  
My soul thirsteth for Thee, my flesh longeth for Thee,  
In a dry and weary land, where no water is.  
So have I looked upon Thee in the sanctuary,  
To see Thy power and Thy glory.  
Because Thy lovingkindness is better than life,  
My lips shall praise Thee.  
So will I bless Thee while I live:  
I will lift up my hands in Thy name  
My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness;  
And my mouth shall praise Thee with joyful lips"

(Psalm 63: 1-5).

A bright feature of David's character is his longing after God, his joy in the Lord's presence, and his exultation in God's salvation. We as Christians have much more objective truth to cause us to joy in God and His salvation than David had, and yet many fall short of obtaining the joy and satisfaction which they might have in Christ and His finished work.

### **God Is the Sum of Blessing**

After all, God is the infinite source and sum of all that is good, and holy, and eternal. It must be unmeasured blessing to be reconciled to God and be in perfect harmony with Him. The spirit and soul of man are the offspring of God, and God has ordained that fullness of joy is to be found only in His presence.

### **Seeking for God**

God first seeks man because man has been alienated from God by wicked works, but those who have been reconciled to God now have the privilege and responsibility of seeking God. *"They that seek Me early shall find Me."* *"I will be found of them that seek Me."* David declared, *"Thou art my God; earnestly will I seek Thee."* God delights in having a soul

claim Him as his own God, and He will inevitably satisfy such earnest seeking.

### **The World a Wilderness**

David declares, "My soul thirsteth for Thee, my flesh longeth for Thee, in a dry weary land where no water is." To those who come to really know God and commune with Him, the world becomes in fact a moral wilderness. We still appreciate the things which God has made because we know Him who has made them, but real and lasting satisfaction we find only in God Himself.

### **God in the Sanctuary**

David loved God's sanctuary although the veil of the tabernacle had not yet been rent. How much more reason for us to love God's presence and the gatherings together of His people since the way into the holiest has been opened by the death of Jesus, and we come boldly to the blood-sprinkled Mercy Seat, the throne of grace.

### **Complete Satisfaction**

David declares that God's loving kindness is better than life, and he promises to praise God as long as he lives, for his soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness. This remarkable satisfaction belongs not to David alone, but to every blood-bought child of God who earnestly seeks God as David did.

### **Private Devotion**

David was the sweet singer of Israel and led the great congregation in their psalms of praise to Jehovah. He was the composer, and delivered these spiritual songs to Korah and his singers for use in the sanctuary. We find, however, that David's private devotion was the spring of his public praise. He says:

"My mouth shall praise Thee with joyful lips;  
When I remember Thee upon my bed,  
And meditate on Thee in the night-watches.  
For Thou hast been my help,  
And in the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice.  
My soul followeth hard after Thee:  
Thy right hand upholdeth me."

## JOYS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

In reading the Bible you find frequent occasions of rejoicing for God's people. Many reasons are given for rejoicing, such as great deliverances, God's mercies and loving kindness, His good gifts, and His protecting care, and finally His assurances of everlasting life and eternal joy in the House of the Lord. God even *commands* His people to rejoice. Here are a few examples from the old Testament:

Ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein Jehovah thy God hath blessed thee (Deut. 12:7).

And thou shalt rejoice in all the good which Jehovah thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thy house (Deut. 26:11).

Be glad in Jehovah, and rejoice, ye righteous; And shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart (Psalm 32:11).

In the New Testament the causes of joy are greatly increased:

And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy (Matthew 2:10).

And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10, 11).

Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice (Phil. 4:4).

These are a few of the scores of commands to rejoice. Christians should realize that if they are not habitually rejoicing, they are disobedient, and not appreciative of God's innumerable mercies. When Fanny Crosby was a young girl, she was stricken with blindness, but being a Christian, she realized her blessings and said, "I determined to be a happy person." Her irrepressible joy finds voice in her many happy hymns which have made countless hearts glad.

### **Fear Not, Neither Be Dismayed**

Not only are we commanded to rejoice, but we are told

not to fear nor to be discouraged. We have an Almighty Helper and are invited to come freely to Him for grace and deliverance.

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him, Who is the help of my countenance, and my God (Psalm 42:11).

### **Joy in Times of Trial**

We do not mean that the godly escape trials and sorrows. The fact is that they may have more trials than the wicked. Our Lord said to His disciples, "In the world ye have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Why does God allow the godly to suffer, and to be tested? Peter answers as follows:

Who by the power of God are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, ye have been put to grief in manifold trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold that perisheth though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ: whom not having seen ye love; on whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice greatly with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls (1 Peter 1:5-9).

Trials are allowed to test and exhibit our faith in God, and faith that stands the test is more precious than earthly riches.

### **Joy in Various Kinds of Trial**

Sometimes we suffer for our own sin or folly. This suffering is for our correction. God chastens all His children that they may partake of His holiness and bring forth fruit to righteousness. While this may be painful at the time, it is for our eternal good. In this we rejoice.

Some trials are to develop Christian graces and character. We rejoice in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation worketh the Christian graces (Romans 5:3-5).

If ye suffer for righteousness sake, blessed are ye (1 Peter 3:14).

Our Lord says:

Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy; for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for in the same manner did their fathers unto the prophets (Luke 6: 22, 23).

So we see clearly that whatever trials our Father in heaven sends or allows, they are for our good. Therefore we rejoice even during trial and suffering.

Another thing to rejoice about is that God has promised never to allow our trial to be greater than we can bear, but will with the trial provide also a way of escape (1 Cor. 10:13). God does not destroy faith, but sustains it.

### **Job's Trials**

God permitted Satan to test Job dreadfully: but He knew that Job could stand the strain without turning against God. This was a great victory for faith and for God, and a great defeat for Satan. It is a great example for all the ages of the triumph of faith over trial.

### **The Joys of Christian Service**

The new life that we have from God is unselfish and delights in loving service. There are few joys equal to the joy of leading souls to God. There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. There is music and merry-making in the Father's house over a returning sinner.

There is also great joy in Christian fellowship. The family of God is even more happy than earthly family ties. Of course, when the earthly family is also in the family of God, the ties of love are doubly precious.

From what has been said, the Christian life should be filled with joys abounding. There should be no room for depression or despondency for those who walk with God.

There remain two great areas for Christian joy. The di-

rect and peculiar joy of contact with God Himself, and the future joys of Heaven and the Kingdom.

### **God's Protection**

David knew from experience the power and the certainty of God's protection. As a youth keeping his father's sheep he had killed a lion and a bear which had attacked the sheep, and when he met the giant defying the armies of Israel, in the same confidence of God's protection he advanced single handed and slew the great enemy. David was bold and courageous because God was with him, yet he rejoiced in God's protection. *"In the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice."*

### **Conclusion**

Our Lord has finished His great work on the cross. He has risen from the dead, and now sits in heavenly glory, and has sent His Spirit into our hearts so that we should enjoy even more than David enjoyed of the presence of God. Let us learn to say with Paul, "We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation" (Rom. 5:11).

## THE JOYS OF HEAVEN

“If here on earth the thoughts of Jesus’ love  
Lift our poor hearts this weary world above,  
If even here the taste of heavenly springs  
So cheers the spirit, that the pilgrim sings,

“What will the sunshine of His glory prove?  
What the unmingled fulness of His love?  
What hallelujahs will His presence raise?  
What but one loud eternal burst of praise?”

The “Blessed Hope” is set before the believer as our supreme climax of joy.

Awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13, R.S.V.).

The coming (*parousia* — arrival and presence) of our Lord for His saints will break the age-long absence of the Lord Jesus Christ from His redeemed on the earth since He left them on Mount Olivet.

Our blessed hope will then begin its fulfillment. Our heavenly joy will have begun and will continue through endless ages.

“Oh, what ecstatic joy ’twill be,  
To spend eternity with Thee!”

### Old Testament Saints

All the redeemed of all ages will participate in this super-glorious event. This is the first resurrection — the resurrection of the just. The Old Testament saints only dimly realized the heavenly glory and joy to which they will be introduced at the resurrection. David sang:

In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand . . . are pleasures for evermore.



These words were inspired by God's Spirit, and apply to Christ now, and in measure to His saints at the Rapture.

### **We Shall See Him As He Is**

Probably the first unutterable surge of joy in each redeemed heart will be to see for the first time the glorified Saviour. He has been hidden from men in order to exercise faith. This has been necessary to test men, and to separate those who have faith from the unbelieving world.

Only in comparatively few cases have mortal men been permitted to see the glory of the Lord in its heavenly splendor.

When Moses asked to see Jehovah's glory, he was told that he could not see His face. However he was placed in a cleft of the rock and covered by the Lord's hand while the glory passed by. Then the divine hand was removed and Moses saw Jehovah's back (Exodus 33:17-23).

When Isaiah saw the Lord on His throne, he was oppressed with his unclean condition and cried, "Woe is me!"

Ezekiel saw the glory surrounding the throne and describes the glory of the living creatures, and the vast wheels of God's government. Their movements were like lightning and their noise like the thunder of great waters: but when he perceived the likeness of a Man on the throne he fell on his face in awe (Ezek. 1).

When Daniel saw the Lord there was no strength left in him, and he fell on his face as in a deep sleep.

When John saw the same glorious Person he fell at His feet as one dead!

What is the meaning of this complete prostration of the holiest of God's servants on seeing the Lord in His personal glory? It is that mortal man in this body of flesh and blood cannot endure the sight. Saul was blinded by that light. Paul the apostle was caught up to the third heaven but could not tell what he saw and was not allowed to say what he had heard.

Why were these men given glimpses of heavenly glory?

To fortify them for great and special tasks. To enable them to speak of heavenly things with personal knowledge and authority. We common Christians have no such giant tasks and therefore no such foreviews of Heaven's glories.

Shall we then be prostrated with fear and paralyzed with weakness when Jesus comes? No indeed! We shall gaze at Him with wide open eyes, and with unveiled faces we shall behold His glory!

How will this be possible?

It is possible only because we shall be changed into His own likeness. In a moment we shall be like Him whom we love and worship.

### **Bodies of Glory**

In bodies of glory and immortality we shall gaze at heavenly glory without flinching. We shall be at home in Heaven. What an ecstatic joy it will be to have redeemed bodies. Eternal youth and beauty. No pains or infirmities. No weakness or weariness. Earth's limitations forever gone. We shall be equal to the angels in these matters.

### **Holiness Our Nature**

A deeper joy shall dawn upon us when we realize that the old evil nature is utterly gone! The old Adam nature gone with the old Adam body. Now to exult in our new and holy life and nature of the glorified Christ, the Last Adam, the Second Man, the Lord from Heaven. We henceforth are a new race like God's Son. We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

### **Examination and Rewards**

"Behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to render to each man according as his work is" (Rev. 22:12).

Shall we dread the searching light of Christ's presence? Or the complete manifestation of His judgment seat? I think not. All in that great company are in glorified bodies. The

old and sinful nature is gone! Only the holy life of Christ remains. We shall be intensely concerned as to what the Lord, the righteous Judge, will say as to our stewardship in the earthly life. What a thrill to hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant . . . enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

No doubt there will be regrets on the part of those who suffer loss and are saved only as those who escape from a fire. But even in such persons there will remain the joy of being saved and being safe with the Saviour.

### **The Father's House**

What shall we say about the joy of the Father's House? Jesus has gone there to prepare rooms for each of His own. In the Father's House there is not only room for all His children, but a room for each one. In my Father's House are many rooms. What a wonderful home-coming that will be! What happy reunions! Loved ones long since departed will meet again to part no more.

What glad surprises to find there, safe in the eternal home, loved ones we had prayed for that they might find the Saviour.

What unlimited discourse will take place with saints of old times that we loved but had never met. Such are some of the joys of the Father's House!

## THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Hallelujah: for the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigneth. Let us rejoice and be exceeding glad, and let us give the glory unto him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And it was given unto her that she should array herself in fine linen, bright and pure: for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they that are bidden to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are true words of God. And I fell down before his feet to worship him. And he saith unto me, See thou do it not: I am a fellow-servant with thee and with thy brethren that hold the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:6-10).

Nothing that the mind of man can conceive can approach the majesty of the scene described in the inspired account of the marriage of the Lamb.

God's only Son takes to Himself His Bride purchased from the earth, redeemed by His blood.

All Heaven thunders with acclamation! And all Heaven's holy citizens say: "Let us rejoice and be exceeding glad, and let us give the glory unto Him, for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready."

### **Nuptial Joys**

Think of Jesus, the Man of Sorrows, rejected by His own people, disbelieved by his own brothers, without house or home of His own. Snatching only a few days of rest and loving care in the home of Martha and Mary and Lazarus.

Think of Jesus bearing the burdens of others with no one to share His own dreadful burdens! Think of Him weeping over Jerusalem saying:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that killeth the prophets, and stoneth them that are sent unto her! how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! (Matthew 23:37).

This city and its people that He had loved from the days of David had now utterly rejected her divine Lover.

How is He to be comforted?

The Father had called out a bride for His Son and now the marriage day has come! The Spirit had wooed her and won her by His love. She had been espoused to one Husband and now she is presented as a pure virgin to Christ.

### **The Wife of the Lamb**

As Eve was taken from the side of Adam, so the Church has come from the side of Christ, the Lamb of God. As Eve was presented to her husband by the Lord, so now the Church is presented to Christ by the Father as His own beloved wife; His very body and bride!

### **The Resplendent Marriage Dress**

The bride has arrayed herself in fine linen bright and pure, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. God has chosen (given unto her) that the saints will be seen in all the loveliness of character and deeds that she has acquired while working for her Beloved and waiting for her wedding day! Christ is worthy of such a beautiful bride. This is practical and personal righteousness manifested before the holy hosts of heaven!

### **The Wedding Guests**

Blessed are they that are bidden to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

John the Baptist said:

Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but, that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, that standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is made full (John 3:28-30).

John was one of the friends of the Bridegroom who will rejoice at the Bridegroom's marriage. So will all the redeemed of Old Testament times not included in the Church formed at Pentecost. Unselfish joy will fill every heart in that wonderful day!

## **The Glorious Appearing**

And I saw the heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and he that sat thereon called Faithful and True; and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. And his eyes are a flame of fire, and upon his head are many diadems; and he hath a name written which no one knoweth but he himself. And he is arrayed in a garment sprinkled with blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

And the armies which are in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and pure. And out of his mouth proceedeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of God, the Almighty. And he hath on his garment and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS (Rev. 19:11-16).

This is the day of Messiah's glory foretold in fullness of detail by Old Testament prophets. This is the glory that should follow His sufferings foretold by Christ Himself.

This is the second part of the Blessed Hope. The "appearing of the glory of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

What believer does not thrill with joy as he gazes in faith on this future scene of glory! Companions and co-heirs of the glorious Son of Man as He comes to take the kingdoms of this world to subject them to Himself and thus to His Father!

This mighty event is the "Manifestation of His parousia" to the world.

## **The Purging Judgments of the Earth**

During the Church's stay in Heaven when the "Bema" and the Marriage take place, God's wrath has been poured out on the earth. Now Christ Himself appears to separate the righteous from the wicked as a shepherd separates sheep from goats.

The righteous are told to inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world.

## **The Glorious Millennial Kingdom**

This introduces the Golden Age that prophets have predicted, when wars shall cease. The knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Every man shall sit under his own vine and fig tree and none shall make them afraid.

This is the age for which the suffering masses have waited, when righteousness shall reign and settled peace shall be maintained by the great King in Jerusalem.

What universal joy shall fill the hearts of mankind when . . .

“Jesus shall reign where’er the sun  
Doth his successive journeys run.  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.”

### **The Two Holy Cities**

In the days of Messiah’s kingdom there will be two Holy Cities. Jerusalem the city of the son of David will be holy and all its inhabitants holy. Then the New Jerusalem, God’s Holy City, will descend from Heaven to brood over the Holy Land as the cloud brooded over Israel in the wilderness to shield them from the heat. And at night the Heavenly Jerusalem will be a light over God’s earthly people like the pillar of fire in the wilderness.

Jerusalem above is the home of the heavenly saints. The city is the bride, the Lamb’s wife. The saints shall reign over the earth.

### **The Final Judgments**

How solemn that even the glorious kingdom of the Son of Man on earth must end in judgment on the ungodly!

Satan who is to be confined in God’s prison during the Millennial Kingdom will be loosed for a short time to test the multitudes on earth. Many will follow him and this last rebellion will be destroyed by fire from heaven.

### **The Judgment of the Wicked Dead**

All the wicked of earth’s history who have died will be summoned before the Great White Throne to receive judg-

ment (Revelation 20). God will banish sin from His universe in final judgment.

### **New Heaven and New Earth**

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth are passed away; and the sea is no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of the throne saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell with them, and they shall be his peoples, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God: and he shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more: the first things are passed away. And he that sitteth on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he saith, Write: for these words are faithful and true. And he said unto me, They are come to pass. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit these things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son (Revelation 21:1-7).

This is God's final rest, and His eternal Kingdom. This is the final consummation that our Lord taught us to pray: "Our Father who art in Heaven . . . Thy kingdom come."

Who can imagine the eternal joys of dwelling with God our Father!

### **The Ages to Come**

. . . that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:7).

This brief statement gives us the clue to the limitless ages to come when God our Father shall unfold His plans of glory and service which are yet unrevealed. Our present knowledge of God shows Him to be the Originator and Creator of a physical universe of unimaginable vastness and splendor. The great telescopes are still searching God's infinite glory in creation.

The newest microscopes and scientific research are making discoveries of God's glories in the infinitely small.

We who are God's children and Christ's bride shall



through eternity be the trophies of the riches of His wisdom and grace.

O for more faith and diligence to explore His divine promises and being filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory, prepare for the exceeding weight of glory reserved for those overcomers who love and serve Him now.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A. S. Loizeaux, is a professional engineer of broad experience, both as an able executive and as an active Christian layman.

Before his retirement from thirty years of service with the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company he served as Chief Electrical Engineer. Prior to this he was associated for two years with the New York Edison Company, and for six years with General Electric Company in Schenectady, New York.

Mr. Loizeaux has been editor for the last fifteen years of the monthly magazine, "HELP and FOOD for the HOUSEHOLD of FAITH," which has been published by Loizeaux Brothers every month since 1883.

## BOOKS ON CHRISTIAN LIVING

*by A. S. Loizeaux*

CHRISTIAN JOY	paper .50
GOD'S SCHOOL and other Papers	paper .50
THINK ON THESE THINGS	cloth \$1. paper .50
USE YOUR GIFT FOR GOD	paper .10

*by R. K. Campbell*

THE CHRISTIAN HOME	cloth 1.50
--------------------	------------

*by J. Allen Blair*

LIVING RELIANTLY; On the 23rd Psalm	cloth 2.00
LIVING PEACEFULLY; On 1st Peter	3.00
LIVING FAITHFULLY; On 2nd Peter	3.00
LIVING VICTORIOUSLY; On Philippians	2.00

LOIZEAUX BROTHERS, Inc.

19 West 21st Street, New York 10, N. Y.

FIFTY CENTS