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CMC NEWSLINE

Renewal of Joy

Ripples of Joy

Joy is an emotional response of experiencing something good. The ultimate source of all good things and goodness is God Himself. God created the world and made everything good. God rejoiced in His creation.

Joy is our response to God's goodness in creation

God delighted in making us. God delighted in wisely, beautifully, strategically, creatively shaping and giving life to a world that we could enjoy.

The pandemic has made us cherish every little happiness around us. How do we find joy when there is injustice and tragedy? Amidst all these terrible things; God's goodness is still found. One way to find joy in this broken and fallen world is to use the five senses that God gave you – hearing, seeing, tasting, smelling and touching. Hearing the chirping of birds, admiring the luscious green of the nature, tasting the delicious food and appreciating its aroma and holding a newborn in your arms brings pure joy to our hearts.

Despite continuous dramatic increase of material wealth, this affluence or prosperity has not remotely led to joy. The true source of joy does not consist on any worldly commodity or any self centered, hedonistic pursuit, but instead a spiritual gift, bestowed by almighty God. As the scripture rightly says, "Joy of the Lord is my strength" let us derive our strength from Jesus Christ.

Joy is the result of fulfilling Gods creation.

God says to the first man, and to all of humanity; to do two things – to cultivate the world and to care for it (Gen:2:15). If we do these two things we will experience joy. God said take care of my creation; what does that mean? I know that there is nothing better for the people than to be happy and to do good while they live that each of them may eat and drink and find satisfaction in all their toil – this is the gift of God (Ecc 3:12-13). In your daily task, do you ever take time to savor the work of your hands when you have done a job and done it well? Whether you have been paid for the work or not, whether it's work for you family, preparing a meal, volunteer work, ministering, something you accomplish in your career. You say where do I find joy, in this world full of sadness?

Joy is our response to God's creation. It is also the result of us taking care of God's creation and improving it. The joy of caring for the sick, sharing the little that we have, serving the downtrodden, giving generously, showing kindness to the needy and mentoring our students.

When we are filled with joy uncontainable and overflowing; we spread it around us and become a channel of blessing to many. John 16: 22 says "...and your hearts will rejoice and no one will take your joy from you".

The ultimate joy

The Bible begins with God's creation and the bible ends with this final vision in revelation 21:1 then I saw a new heaven and new earth. The birth of Christ brought a great joy to the mankind (Luke 2:9-11 do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people) and we await the Lord's coming which is the ultimate joy we hope for. The Lord is coming back to free the world from sin and suffering and sickness and sorrow. No more disease, no more distress, no more disappointment and no more death. Our responsibility as a creation is to preserve the works of our master and sustain it and spread the joy around us till our creator comes back.

As the bible says, a cheerful look brings joy to the heart and good news to the bones (Pro 15:30), let us be the ambassadors of Christ and spread the joy of God's love to everyone around us.

As the famous Sunday school song goes "JOY JOY this shall surely mean; Jesus first and yourself last and others in between", Let us keep God and others in front of us in everything we do.

Jesus – Others -Yourself

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