

Inexpressible Joy

Introduction

- We have been addressing joy in trials from James chapter 1.
- Last week we looked at praising the Lord with a fully engaged heart motivated by meaning & purpose from Psalm 103.
- Before we move on to James chapter 2, I want to take another look at praising God in trials from 1 Peter chapter 1.
- Praising God helps & brings relief during times of trials!

I. God is Worthy of Our Praise (v. 3-7)

A. His relationship to Jesus (v. 3a)

There is a unique relationship between these two persons in the Godhead. It is impossible to know or come to the Father except through Jesus (Mt. 11:27; Jn. 14:6). Therefore God is worthy of praise because He has made provisions for sinners to know Him thru Jesus (Rom. 5:1-2) = ACCESS!

B. His mercy in salvation (v. 3b)

*Mercy means to show kindness to someone in serious need & helpless. God is worthy of praise because He has demonstrated **great mercy** toward sinners when we were in **great need**. "he caused us..." - He saved us when we were helpless in our sins & without self-merit in us (Rom. 5:6-8).*

C. His future reward in heaven (v. 4)

Believers have been born again to obtain an eternal reward in the eternal city of God (the new heaven & earth). The reward is being kept or protected by God in heaven.

D. His present care in trials (v. 5-7)

*The believer is being kept or protected by God on earth in trials (v. 5). God Himself ensures that no trial can defeat, destroy or separate us from Him (Rom. 8:38-39). Many things in life cause us **grief** & test the genuineness of our faith (v. 6-7). But we will eventually rejoice to suffer for Christ because He is worth it, trials are temporary & our future is glorious (Mt. 5:11-12; Ac. 5:40-41). God helps us endure so that Jesus will receive praise now & in the future (2Co. 4:8-9).*

II. Our Praise is Filled With Joy & Glory (v. 8-9)

A. Christians love Jesus now (v. 8a)

The Christian's relationship with Jesus is not based natural senses (sight, touching, etc.) but on supernatural love. The verb "love" is in the present, active tense which means a continual & daily relationship based on love. This ability to love is from God (1Jn. 4:19).

B. Christians believe in Jesus now (v. 8b)

The Christian's relationship with Jesus is not based natural senses (sight, touching, etc.) but on supernatural faith. The verb is in the present, active tense which means a continual & daily relationship based on faith. This ability to believe is from God (Phil. 1:29).

C. Christians rejoice in Jesus now (v. 8c-9)

*This daily relationship based on love & faith enables the Christian to rejoice in Jesus daily even when life is filled with troubling circumstances. When the circumstances are filled with pain & misery, the Christian's praise is filled with joy & glory. Inexpressible joy filled with glory means that it cannot be expressed in earthly words because it is heavenly joy. **God intends for people to know this joy by experience, not by someone telling it.** This is joy that comes from being in the presence of the lord while still on earth (Ps. 16:11).*

ILL: Watching a movie that is captivating with suspense, drama, action or romance. You can be so emotionally drawn into the movie that you smile, cheer or almost applaud with some scenes without being affected by the circumstances surrounding you at that present time in the room; completely oblivious to other circumstances.

APPL: The same is true with us spiritually. Praise is beneficial to us because it take our attention & thoughts off our problems & directs our attention to the Lord; His character, ways, power, wisdom, resources. We are to be so awestruck, captivated, humbled & blessed by being in the Lord's presence that our problems cannot dominate our thinking. Problems may distract us temporarily, but the presence & promises of God will eventually captivate/dominate.

CONCLUSION

My question for everyone is, “Do you know anything about this inexpressible joy; have you experienced for yourself?” If you are a Christian, I am here to remind you that you have **access** to God for help, you have received His **great mercy** in salvation, you have a **great reward** in heaven & the Lord promises to **take care of you** in all your trials of life. I’m here to remind you my beloved brother & sister that you have a **daily & continual relationship** with Jesus based on supernatural love & faith. And this enables you to **rejoice in Jesus daily** with supernatural joy; joy that is from heaven; joy that is so glorious that it cannot be expressed in words. This is God’s gift to help in times of trials. Do not quench the Holy Spirit; do not praise you problems; do not cling to worry, fear, bitterness, anger, stress... Let it go, look to Jesus; He will lift your spirit; He will comfort you, protect, provide, deliver... He’s worthy of your trust & praise; Inexpressible praise & joy!

If you are not a Christian, you cannot experience this praise & joy on your own? This is heavenly joy & praise that come from a right relationship with Jesus. You must believe in Him; believe Him. He will save you; raise you; care for you. Will you believe today?

SUBJECT: [Inexpressible Joy](#)

TEXT: [1 Peter 1:3-9](#)

LOCATION: [Trinity Community Church](#)

DATE: [May 29, 2011](#)

OCASSION: [Sunday Morning Worship Svc](#)

SERMON INDEX NUMBER: [951](#)

FILE LOCATION: [BX4](#)

[Prepared by Willie D. Woodmore](#)