

Joys from Heaven

Jesus instructed us to pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is heaven, and so we do that. Although I have prayed that prayer, I now feel that I have missed something so incredibly valuable that its indescribable. God's will is always perfect—we know that. But I feel that God's will must have something more attached to it—such as His feelings, or emotional aspects. For surely it brings Him joy to see us executing His will on earth.

Like you, I am careful and watchful not to sink into the pitfalls of life where my focus remains only on how hard life can be, its grievances, sorrows, or feeling its pains. We all know that God is a good God and that He loves us so much that He sent His only son to die for us. And knowing that we have the opportunity while we are alive to tell others about how joyous it is to know Jesus and to walk in His footsteps, we step forward to introduce Him. And yet we often find ourselves sinking back into a dull and joyless life.

As I prayed recently, I felt the need to shift my focus *again* towards being joyous in the presence of God. Some years ago, I read a book called, "Jesus, Man of Joy" by Sherwood E. Wirt (*Harvest House Publishers*). One thing Wirt wrote about is how the joy of Jesus is hidden in plain sight in the scriptures. He explained how Jesus was such a man of joy that everyone was drawn to him because of it. Yet that joy infuriated the priests because they thought that the God of Moses was only a serious God. But how can that be when joy abounds in heaven?

Friends, years ago I wrote in my journal about desiring the joys of Jesus, so I chose to be intentional about being joyous, until I regressed by multiple troubles. Recently I wrote out my prayer again and I listed the adjectives of joys because I wanted all of them to manifest in and through me! The following is what I feel to share with you from my prayer journal entries in hopes that in the process of your daily lives, that you will realize that you too, can and should, make a demand for that sweet, heavenly joy to manifest in all that you do.

Dear Jesus,

You said that you would withhold no good thing from them (Ps 84:11). Now I pray for you to send them your heavenly joy without end. Let them feel this joy bubbling up, bursting out, and splashing all over them. May this joy be so contagious that it bellows out and spills over onto the people that they come into contact with. May their latter days be filled with the effervescent joys from heaven. In the place of their sadness and unfulfilled hopes, may the winds of joy propel them into your purpose. May each breath they breathe be filled with joy from your celestial breath of heaven. May your life-giving breath cause them to flow freely in your river of joy. Their life is fragile, and the sorrows of earth want to swallow them up, but we make a demand for heaven to pour out this life-giving joy to sustain them in each and every circumstance! Breathe your joy into them so that they may mount up with wings like eagles and soar with you.

Jesus, I am declaring that they shall experience each of these joys to the overflow! Give them a quiet joy and a peaceful joy that gives them rest. Let their simple joys comfort their hearts. Make their joy so effervescent that it will exude from them! Give them an abounding joy, and a limitless joy when they feel hopeless! May they experience the ever-flowing fountain of an overflowing joy. May they experience an exploding joy that causes them to leap. You have such an abundance of joy in heaven that when you send it, for sure they will leap, shout, and be totally ecstatic in your presence. Let all of us feel your joy on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord, we are your children, and you want us to be a replica of who you are, so let your joy invade us. Let us experience your joy on earth as it is in heaven. Yes, and Amen!!

Dr. Nina Gardner

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11)



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