



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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Enjoying Life: Living in the Blessing

Message preached on Sunday Morning, June 2, 2024

I do have several favorite subjects to minister on...covenant...faith...but among those is the topic of joy. The Lord gave me the assignment years ago to minister on joy until He told me to stop and I did...and I learned the importance of living in joy.

HOWEVER: Often we hear old adage, "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart..." and we think it is Scripture. When the Bible tells us that joy should also take up residence on your face. Proverbs 15:13 – "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance...."

YOU SEE...the point of joy is to bring you the life that God desires you to have.
(James 1:2-4) Perfect and entire lacking nothing.

HONESTLY: Today, my focus isn't so much on JOY, but on ENJOYING!

BELOVED: God wants us to ENJOY LIFE...not just to have joy during the mess we call life.

YOU MAY SAY: So, God wants us to ENJOY the storms? Not necessarily...He wants you to have joy in the storm, so you can get to the place that you ENJOY.

ILLUSTRATION: The children of Israel (given as an example) were suppose to walk through the wilderness...to get to the land they were to ENJOY.

ILLUSTRATION: Job was suppose to make it through the months of suffering to get to the life that he would ENJOY.

Most of the time...Christians end up feeling that, because of the storms, that Jesus doesn't want you to actually be happy in your life or enjoy your life.

THE OLD HYMM: "Just a few more weary days and then...."

ILLUSTRATION: We have whole religious groups that line themselves up with suffering and not enjoying life.

SHARE: About the girl in college and how much she couldn't do because it was a "sin".

AS A MATTER OF FACT: The more suffering...the closer to Jesus.

Too often we have too much of our theology tied up in NOT ENJOYING life, but living in the battles.

REMEMBER: He suffered so you wouldn't have to suffer.

Philippians 3:10 – "...fellowship of His sufferings..."

John 8:31,32,36

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

32 And ye **shall know the truth**, and the truth shall **make you free**.

36 If the **Son therefore shall make you free**, ye shall be free indeed.

“Free” – to be exempt from the dominion of another.

John 10:10 – “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

NOTICE: The dominion of the enemy...steal, kill and destroy. That is what he controls...that is what he brings.

AS A MATTER OF FACT: He doesn't show up if he can't bring stealing, killing and destroying with him.

THEREFORE: If we do things God's ways and follow Him, our Shepherd...then we you could easily say that we would be enjoying life.

His method of life is LIFE and ABUNDANCE.

“Life” – God kind of life, not just life.

Deuteronomy 11:21 – “That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.”

Matthew 6:10 – “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”

“Abundance” – superabundant (in quantity) or superior (in quality); by implication, excessive; adverbially (with exceeding, very highly, beyond measure, more, superfluous, vehement(-ly)).

NOTICE: Quantity (first) and quality!

God doesn't just want you have a lot of stuff, but it is all so bad that you are ashamed of it AND He definitely doesn't want you to have something REAL AWESOME, but just a little bit (you know to keep you humble).

NOTICE one more word in the second part of John 10:10...

“Might” – ability

The fact that Jesus came to give you life and abundance doesn't necessarily mean you will ENJOY life and abundance...it simply means it is available to you. It is in your hands.

But it is HIS desire for you...it is why Jesus went to the cross for you...it is why Jesus defeated death, hell and the grave for you...for you to ENJOY life.

NOW: If you expect or believe that suffering is your way of life...then you will life in it.

John 10:10 (AMP) – “The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).”

BELOVED: This is exactly what the word abundance means...outrageous life until it overflows. Too much!

Ephesians 3:20 – “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”

QUESTION: What kind of life?

ANSWER: An exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think kind of life.
A life to ENJOY!

QUICK HIT: I am not saying the enemy doesn't bring the battles...but it means that we get to live in the victory...and enjoy life.

Ecclesiastes 3:13 – “And also that every man should eat and drink, **and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.**”

1 Timothy 6:17 – “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, **who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;**”

Psalms 31:19 (NLT) – “How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world.”

NOTICE: That sounds like a life to ENJOY.

The Blessing

The Word of God uses another word that really encapsulates ENJOYING life.

“Blessing” or **“Blessed”** – empowered with all things that are good...empowered to prosper.

(AMP) – “happy, fortunate, to be envied” – my dad liked to replace fortunate with FAVORED.

BELOVED: That is a life that one can enjoy.

Galatians 3:13,14

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

14 **That the blessing of Abraham** might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

BELOVED: God wants us to live in the same blessing that Abraham lived in...he wants us happy, fortunate and to be envied just like Abraham.

Genesis 12:2,3

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

REMEMBER: Happy, favored and to be envied.

UNDERSTAND: That is the life that Abraham lived in...the only times his life got harder was when he tried to do things his own way and help God.

BELOVED: This is what Jesus came to redeem us from...NOT ENJOYING life.

Genesis 1:26-28

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 **And God blessed them**, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

YES...sin separated us...but Jesus redeemed us!

We are suppose to be ENJOYING life!

HOWEVER: We need to quit doing things our ways and start doing them HIS.

Deuteronomy 28:1,2

1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

2 And **all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee**, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

(read through Deuteronomy 28:3-14 and emphasis ENJOYING life.)

QUESTION: Does that sound like a life of ENJOYMENT? Absolutely!

BELOVED: This is the life God wants you to have AND ENJOY!

HOWEVER: Notice the “AND” in verse 2? You must do what it says in verse 1.

If you will hearken diligently.

Hebrew word – **shaw-mah** – to listen and give great attention to and to obey. (Gloria) listen with the full intent to do it... **OR to observe and do!**

IMPORTANT: It is actually “shaw-mah, shaw-mah”...double mention. Which adds importance exponentially!

IN OTHER WORDS: The things that Moses just got done telling them would not just be something that they passively thought of every now and then...but that it would consume their very being.

NOW: In Deuteronomy 4 Moses begins giving details to the children of Israel about what they need to be focused on in the Promised Land that they were heading. He gives them stuff like...

- * The ten commandments
- * The greatest command of loving God
- * Loving and serving the Lord
- * Clean and unclean food
- * A lot of mention regarding the tithe
- * He goes over the feasts, etc.

NOW much of that has been fulfilled through Jesus, so that list can be important to look at in the concept of typology...but if we want to apply Deuteronomy 28:1 to us...we need to understand we have 66 books that we need to apply to ourselves. We need to find what God tells us to do and do it...no questions asked.

Jesus’ mom set president for this in the New Covenant:

John 2:5 – “His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.”

So, Moses finished up Deuteronomy 28 by saying if you do what you are suppose to do...you will ENJOY life...if you don’t, then you won’t!

HOWEVER: Let’s go to the beginning of this list and see what Moses starts this whole thing off with.

Deuteronomy 4:1,2

- 1 Now therefore hearken (shaw-mah), O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, ***for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.***
- 2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

NOTICE #1: vs. 2 - Don’t add your own twist to anything God tells us to do and don’t take away anything that God tells you to do.

NOTICE #2: vs. 1 – As you obey the Word of God...His statutes...you will LIVE and go in and possess the land.

AGAIN: The land had been promised to them...but disobedience will limit God.

Psalm 78:41 – “Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.”
Do what God has told you to do and you will ENJOY what God has promised you.

NOTICE: “***That ye may live***” – I know that we read that and we just contrast it to dying...but if you look at the definition of this word...the contrast isn’t really about dying.

“***chay-yaw***” – to have life (sure that means breath), but the rest of the definition develops what it means by living.

- * To be revived or be quickened...
 - ~ from sickness (restored to health)
 - ~ from discouragement
 - ~ from faintness
 - ~ from death
- * To grow

IN OTHER WORDS: If you are living in discouragement or depression; if you are living in sickness, disease or pain, if you are living on the threshold of quitting...

BELOVED: That is NOT the life God has planned for you. You are not ENJOYING life.

God wants us to ENJOY life! It is a part of the blessing!

What the Lord is speaking to me is that discouragement, faintness and especially sickness is NOT suppose to be in the life of a child of God and one who obeys His Word.

God wants you healed...God wants you whole...God wants you strong...God wants you enjoying life!