

## Joy – Pt 2 God is our exceeding joy

In our first study on this topic we established that (1) joy is linked to gladness of heart, (2) Joy is linked to rejoicing, and (3) Joy, rejoicing and gladness all take place in the heart. In this study we establish that (1) God is our exceeding joy (2) we express our joy to God when we a) sing and praise His name with all our heart, b) give with a willing heart and c) obey His word with all our heart.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. God is our exceeding joy.

“Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God” (Ps.43: 4).

Our soul shall be joyful in the Lord and rejoice in His salvation (Ps.35: 9). In His presence is fulness of joy (Ps.16: 11).

### 2. Expressions of our exceeding joy from our hearts

#### i) Singing praises to the Lord with joy.

“And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord” (Ps.27: 6), c.f.– Zeph 3:14 Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. See Ps.42 :4.

We make a joyful noise unto the Lord with trumpets (Ps.98: 6). We make a joyful noise before the Lord with Psalms (Ps.95:2). Hence – David sung and danced before the Lord with joy (1Sam 18:6, 1 Chr.15: 16).

#### ii) David had joy when the people gave to the Lord willingly with a perfect heart.

“Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy” (1 Chr.29: 9) – c.f.– 2 Cor.9: 7 – “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give”.

#### iii) When Israel kept the feasts they obeyed the law and expressed joy.

“And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy” – Ezra 6: 22 – c.f. Deut.30: 2. See also Esth.8: 17, 9: 22 and Zech.8: 19.

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life

Before Hilkiah found the book of the law (2Kgs.22: 8; 23: 24) the people would not have kept the feasts of the Lord because they knew not the law, but once the people had the book they could obey God and keep His feasts.

Question to think about.

When a congregation worships angels, or have a rock band as their worship team to lead them in singing, what is wrong with that picture?

Our answer from the scriptures.

The over-riding problem is they do not have the word of the Lord. It is only when we have the 1611 English text of the Authorised Bible that we can worship God in truth, sing with joy in our hearts unto the Lord, give with joy in our hearts to the Lord and obey His word with joy, and so express the exceeding joy we have in God!

Let us rejoice, have gladness of heart and exceeding Joy in our God and show Him that joy – in our singing to Him, in our giving and in our obedience to His word.