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# **The Joy of What He's Done**

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**Series: The Fruit of the Spirit**

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INTO HIS LIKENESS RADIO

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# The Joy of What He's Done

If someone were to ask you, "What is the greatest miracle you have ever heard about?", you would probably have a difficult time knowing how to answer. You might answer, "the creation of the world." You might answer, "the parting of the Red Sea." You might answer, "the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." You might even answer, "my conversion, the bringing of my spirit from a state of spiritual death to spiritual life." Certainly, on all counts, you would be justified. And, of course, the answer is strictly subjective; we might have as many answers as we have people to ask.

But in truth there is probably a miracle that often goes overlooked when miracles are discussed that may well transcend many others. Paul writes of it as a "mystery" in Colossians 1.

The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His Saints.

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect [mature] in Christ Jesus. (Colossians 1:26-28 NKJV)

In effect, perhaps the greatest of miracles did not take place at the Red Sea. Perhaps the greatest of miracles was not a well of water springing out of a solid rock. Perhaps the greatest of miracles is taking place in you right now. It is the miracle of the mystery of godliness. The Living God has taken your body and, with your permission, has turned it into a Holy Temple. He has taken up residence in that temple and is, little by little, day by day, hour by hour, seeking to so transform you from within that when people see you, *they literally see Jesus*. Not His body—His character. Beloved, that is a miracle.

That is what this study is all about. It is about how a Sovereign, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Holy God could take the likes of wretched sinners like us, and by *placing His Spirit within*

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us, could prepare the way for us to get out of the way, and produce *through us* the very same attributes that Jesus demonstrated when He walked this earth...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. *Christ in us; our hope of glory.* Christ *in us* producing *through us* the nature of God in man.

The thought is awesome. Somehow some of us can believe that a miracle-working God could calm the waters of a raging sea; could speak the worlds into being; could one day come back and crush the enemy under His feet; could reach down and call us up from the pit of hell itself and through His precious gift of salvation, redeem us, and regenerate us, and make us whole. But to believe that on a day-to-day basis *this same God can live through us*, and in the process, actually take an angry man and continually flow through that man with a spirit of love; could take a woman known for her anxiety, and flood her spirit with a spirit of peace; could take the most impatient of souls and so change their personality that they would be the very epitome of patience; could take a filthy, impure life and turn it into a portrait of divine goodness; could take a bitter, hostile, vengeful spirit and transform it into a reflection of gentleness and meekness; Beloved, this boggles the mind.

But either our God is who He says He is, and He does what He says He does, or you and I are wasting our time. Either the fruit God produces in your life and mine when we are walking in the Spirit is the essence of those nine qualities, or else God is a liar. And of course, He is not. So if God, when He is allowed to do so, reveals Himself that way, and we are not behaving that way, the problem is not with God. *We have simply quenched His Spirit.*

It is those nine qualities that we have been studying in these lessons. The series is entitled: "The Fruit of the Spirit Is..." We are, at present, in the process of looking at the second of those nine attributes, the fruit of joy. Joy defined, we have determined, is simply this:

A supernatural inner excitement over  
who God is (His Worth)  
what God has said (His Word)  
what God has done (His Works)  
how God has done it (His Ways)  
that is unaffected by circumstances or feelings.

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Three things must be understood:

1- Joy is the actual reflection of an attribute of God. Therefore, it is not available to unbelievers; but it is *never not available to believers*. (Philippians 4:4)

2- Joy, unlike happiness, is constant. It's not a roller-coaster variable, but an unchanging, eternal quality. (Philippians 4:4)

3- Joy is actually more prevalent in times of trouble; that is, it is more noticeable when there is no human reason for it to exist. (James 1:2) Therefore, the worse things get, circumstantially, the more joy ought to flood your soul, for

- a) God is about to glorify Himself;
- b) you are about to be changed; and
- c) God is about to demonstrate His character.

And those are the reasons we are here.

In our last two studies we looked at how God multiplies our joy when we meditate on the Word of God (what He has said) and on the Worth of God (Who He is). In this lesson we look at still another way to develop the joyful spirit that is resident within us. It is by meditating day and night on the works of God (what He has done). Our title and our outline look like this:

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I- The Creator Who Came to Earth

II- The Redeemer Who Died for Me

III- The Comforter Who Lives for Me

IV- The High Priest Who Intercedes for Me

V- The Friend Who Rescues Me

This outline is nothing more than a grouping of passages of Scripture wherein God uses *the things He has done* as a springboard for rejoicing, or exhibiting joy.

### THE CREATOR WHO CAME TO EARTH

As we examine these passages, we will see unfold a beautiful pattern for praise and rejoicing: the pattern of glorifying God for what He has already done. This portion of our study had to be preceded by learning to praise Him for Who He Is and for What He has said. For it is *the essence of God that motivates Him to do what He does*. For us to praise Him only for His works would be a selfish kind of praise; a thankfulness for His acts on our behalf

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could lead to a *presumptuous spirituality*, wherein our praise was proportionate to His visible activity, and thus the focus would shift to *God doing for us* rather than God, period. But once we have grasped the majesty of who He is, and once we have worshiped Him for the immutability of His Holy Word, then we are ready to see that those qualities of His nature that say *He loves us*; that say *He is all powerful*; that say *He is mercy*—those qualities have been manifested in His wisdom on behalf of mankind in general, and on behalf of us in particular. And then, as we *marvel at His Works*, they will point us back to those aspects of His nature that make Him who He is, and we will worship the more.

The problem with man has always been in his memory bank. We fuss and fume when these “almost-perfect” computers of ours occasionally get a “glitch”, and their “rom” gets tangled up with their “ram”, and it forgets everything we’ve already typed in. But we have no right to complain. Compared to us, computers are perfect. Our memories are so short that all we have to do is experience one bad day, and we forget *all the good things that have happened to us in the last decade*.

We forget what life was like before Christ came in. We forget how gracious someone has been in the past, if that someone happens to offend us. We forget what it’s like to be content with virtually nothing, once we have lived with virtually everything. And, oh, how easily we forget those precious little things that God does day by day to manifest His love and His grace. As we forget, we lose our joy. We lose the joy of what He’s done.

God came to earth for you. He left the portals of heaven, left the angelic choir, left the holiness, left the joyfulness, left the security of all that is eternal and traded His robes of royalty for the cloak of a slave. That is perfect truth. If you are grumbling and complaining that God has abandoned you, or forgotten you, or really doesn’t care about you, Beloved, stop and picture in your mind the Eternal I AM leaving all that is pure and holy to come to planet earth to live and to die for you. If that doesn’t fill your heart with joy and help you forget the temporary pain and suffering and heartache you are experiencing, you haven’t grasped the reality of it all. Joy came to earth, when Jesus came to earth. Listen to man’s initial reactions to His coming:

And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

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Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy."

(Luke 1:41-44 NKJV)

That was John the Baptist's first response to the Coming of Christ. He was still in his mother's womb when he heard. John was not yet born, yet God's Spirit communicated to him that the Savior, *the one his coming was to foretell*, was in his presence, and "he leaped for joy", even in his mother's womb.

Mary did not keep that glory for herself. She immediately gave the glory back to God. She prayed:

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And Holy is His name."

(Luke 1:46b,47,49 NKJV)

Then Jesus was born in a manger, in the humblest of beginnings, that He might identify with man in his greatest state of need, and you recall:

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

(Luke 2:8-11 NKJV)

At the moment of His announcement, there was joy. At the moment of His coming, there was joy. Are you downtrodden and weary from the battle? Has the excitement of your walk with God faded into a sea of forgetfulness? Go back and read the Christmas story. Why do you think there is so much joy at Christmas? God came to earth so those on earth could come to heaven. God came to man so man could come to God. Stop and sing a Christmas carol—in April, in May, in October, whenever the clouds of discouragement begin to hang over your head. Jesus left glory to bring glory to you! Let that wonderful truth fill your heart with joy. Then start rejoicing. Start singing. Start praising Him in your

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heart. Start praying psalms of praise back to God in adoration and praise. Messiah has come. Joy to the World; the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!

### THE REDEEMER WHO DIED FOR ME

If that isn't enough to flood your soul with songs of praise, then stop and meditate on a "thread" of Scriptures that tell you *why* He came to earth. He died, was buried, and rose again the third day. Why? For you. Isaiah resounds with this chorus:

Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of  
salvation. (Isaiah 12:3 NKJV)

How long has it been since you simply stopped to sing a song to God for your salvation? Oh, what joy filled your heart the moment you asked Christ to come in. Your soul was flooded with the fruit of His Spirit. Are you downcast? Go back and remind yourself of Calvary, and then look heavenward, and let your mind race back to His glorious resurrection, a portrait of the resurrection yet to come. Again, Isaiah prophesies:

But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell  
in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the  
dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.  
(Isaiah 26:19 NIV)

One glorious day the trumpet of the Lord will sound. The voice of the Lord will envelop the heavens. "The dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (I Thesalonians 4:16,17) Beloved, does not joy fill your being at the very mention of His coming? Matthew 28:8 tells us that the women left the empty tomb "filled with joy". So should you. He's come! He's risen! He's coming again! We get discouraged over broken water hoses, leaking faucets, dead batteries, empty bank accounts. Our *happiness* fades. Our faces drop; our smiles disappear. Tomorrow, those things won't even matter! But there is something that gives you lasting joy... internal, eternal excitement that will not fade. It is *entering into the joy of what He's done*. Try it. Spend a morning alone with God just reading and worshiping as you read of His first coming, His sacrifice, His resurrection, His ascension, and the promise of His coming again. All of life shouts for joy when you do. Join in the chorus, Beloved. Those things are eternal.

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### THE COMFORTER WHO LIVES IN ME

How long has it been since you quietly meditated on the comfort of God. Jesus said,

...it is expedient [necessary] for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. (John 16:7)

And oh, what a comforter He is. We don't have to face life's trials alone. We don't have to be lonely. God Himself, in the form of His Spirit lives in us to bring hope to us. Well the Psalmist wrote:

When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul. (Psalm 94:19 NIV)

That means we don't have to face Satan. We have to let God in us face him. The enemy is not afraid of us, Beloved. But all God has to do is speak, and he trembles. That is why meditation is so important. As you meditate on the Word, even if Satan sends his signals of confusion into your heart, *you don't need to confront him*. Yea, you'd best not confront him. Let God do it. *Breathe* His Word back and forth from your head to your heart, and Satan will flee from you as he did from Jesus in the wilderness. "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4) How often do you meditate on that reality? Or would you rather listen to sermons telling you how powerful the devil is? Yes, he's powerful. And yes, he is wreaking havoc on planet earth. But, oh, he is not awesome compared to the One who lives in you. He is a 90 lb. weakling who flees when the Word of God is presented to him.

I want to give you a prescription for joy. Begin to read and pray back to God the psalms of victory! Read and respond in your heart to passages like these:

We will rejoice in your salvation, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners! (Psalm 20:5 NKJV)

When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad.

Bring back our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the South. Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy.

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He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him. (Psalm 126:1-6 NKJV)

The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.

The right hand of the LORD is exalted: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly. (Psalm 118:14-16)

Would you like to be filled with the joy of the Lord? Then go back and begin reading the Scriptures again, and start a joy catalog. Every time God delivers His people or redeems His people or comforts His people, write out the story along with the verses and find a hymn or a chorus or a song to go with it (or write one if you are creative) and begin to worship Him *for the joy of what He's done*. Then keep the book. And every time the enemy sends forth his fiery darts of discouragement, go to your book of joy and begin a time of praise for the miraculous things your God has done, always tying them into how each of those deeds demonstrates some facet of His nature. Joy will fill you. Discouragement will flee, and Satan will flee, as well.

### THE HIGH PRIEST WHO INTERCEDES FOR ME

Now let me give you another incredible reason to be joyful. Jesus prayed these words to the Father:

But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

(John 17:13, 20-22 NKJV)

You have just heard the Living Son of God praying to His Father for you, for me. Jesus, our Savior, the one High Priest who has constant access into the presence of the Father makes intercession for us night and day without ceasing. Nothing is hidden from His view; nothing comes into our lives that He cannot relate to, *for He has been through every test we can ever go through and passed*. Therefore, He, and He alone, can enter into

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the Father's presence and intercede for us. In Hebrews we read these familiar words:

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Hebrews 4:13-16 NKJV)

But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

(Hebrews 7:24-26 NKJV)

Oh, Beloved, listen. Satan can harass you, intimidate you, discourage you, and attack you. He can run to the Father and accuse you—that is his title; he is the “accuser of the brethren”. But the moment he does (and don't ever forget it), the Lord Jesus Christ, our advocate before the Father, rises to the bench and says, “Yes, Father, he did that. Yes, Father, she said that. And that was wrong. But Father, that debt has been paid in full by my shed blood on the Cross. Here, Father, I offer proof, my nail-scarred hands, that this sin has been paid for in full. Father, forgive them; I paid the price.” *Immediately you are forgiven.* There may be consequences. There may be reaping from the sowing. *But the infraction itself is forgiven the moment you ask God to do so.* The reason is simple. You have a great High Priest who has been tempted in all points as we have, yet without sin. Being sinless, He was able to pay the price once and for all. Now He is seated at the Right Hand of His Father, and He ever lives to make intercession for us.

If that doesn't bring you joy, if that doesn't take a load off of your shoulders you were never intended to carry, you simply aren't listening. Jesus paid the price, and now He stands before

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God night and day to be certain that there is no sin laid to your charge eternally. Your salvation is secure, because He continues forever in an unchangeable priesthood. Rejoice, Beloved. Rejoice! He is standing beside the Father even now on your behalf. What a source of joy. Oh, the *joy of what He's done*.

### THE FRIEND WHO RESCUES ME

So you and I have an unceasing source of joy. It is that constant inner excitement that remains steadfast even amidst the circumstances of life because, when life tries to defeat us in the temporal realm, our spirits, having been bathed in God's Word, are reminded of the joy of what He's done...His incarnation, His redemption, His abiding comfort, His everlasting intercession. We are saved; we are safe; we are rescued; we are guaranteed an unending home in eternity; and we are guaranteed that *the very things in life we so abhor are the very tools He is using to manifest His joy to a searching, hungry world*.

But there is one more thing we ought never to forget. We ought never to forget the specific ways our God has dealt with us and delivered us in days gone by. Again and again in the Old Testament, when Jehovah would deliver the children of Israel from the hand of the enemy, or meet their needs in some supernatural way, God would instruct them to build an altar, or create some form of remembrance, and worship. Those altars, or remembrances, served two purposes:

1- They were to remind the children of Israel then and there who won the battle. They weren't the victors. They were the recipients of the victory at the hand of an all-powerful God. So God would have them build some form of worship center or reminder so that, as they celebrated the victory, they were not tempted to steal the glory for themselves.

2- The memorials or altars were also to serve as a reminder in the years to come, both for them and for their children, lest they forget the joy of what He had done.

One such occasion was in Joshua, chapter 4. The children of Israel had just been mightily delivered by the hand of God. Lest they steal the glory, and lest they forget in years to come, God gave them this commandment:

And it came to pass, when all the people had completely crossed over the Jordan, that the Lord spoke to Joshua, saying:

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“Take for yourselves twelve men from the people, one man from every tribe,

And command them, saying, “Take for yourselves twelve stones from here, out of the midst of the Jordan, from the place where the priests’ feet stood firm.”

And Joshua said to them: “Cross over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and each one of you take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel,

That this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, “What do those stones mean to you?” Then you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.”  
(Joshua 4:1-3a, 5-7 NKJV)

If you were to decide to look back over your life and catalog the special times when God has touched you, or called you, or simply answered a prayer so specifically that you were in awe, you would probably be surprised at how long it takes you even to remember the incidents, let alone the details. Chances are you’ve never even shared many of those times with your children.

That time before you became a Christian when God saved you from death, and you whispered, “God if you’re there, I want to know about it.” The time God sent that special someone into your life who told you clearly that Jesus Christ died for your sins and that you could personally ask Him to come into your heart. That time when you were all alone, and you became aware that there had to be more to the Christian life than you had experienced, and you fell to your knees and begged God to become Lord of all. That time when your first child was born, and you and your mate knelt beside that crib and gave that little one to Him. What do you have to remind you of those *special times* when the heat of the battle is on, and the enemy is trying to tell you God doesn’t care, or God doesn’t answer prayer, or God never called you to do that thing. What do you have?

I believe you ought to at least have a special book somewhere in your house where you write down those experiences, so that you can remind yourself from month to month, and remind your children as they grow old enough to understand “what these things mean”. Some of you need to make a plaque and hang it on the wall with that life verse that God gave you. Maybe you need to

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pen a poem or a song that only you and your family sing that is an anthem or chorus of praise for a specific thing God did.

Maybe a photo album would be appropriate for some, with different pages depicting those special times when God made Himself known by what He did, accompanied by Scripture verses that you have memorized to remind you of those occasions.

What you do is not important. What is important is that you *enter into the joy of what He's done*. What is important is that you never let slip from the edge of your consciousness hymns of praise for that day and that victory and that calling and that answered prayer. No, it isn't a new thought. But old or new, the question is: "Have you done anything about it?" If not, why not do it this week? At least begin with where you are, and at least begin by keeping in a notebook the things God has done that you some day want to make into remembrances.

No, you don't worship the remembrances. God forbid. But every time you see them, you ought to worship the God who made it all possible. *Oh, the joy of what He's done*. God the Creator came to earth *just to die for you*. God the Redeemer was raised from the dead, *just to guarantee eternal life for you*. God the Intercessor, even now *sits at the right hand of the Father, ever ready to stand in the gap and say to the Father, "Do not hold that to their eternal charge...I paid for that sin with my own blood."*

And God, the Triumphant King even now waits in the wings for that split second in history when He will come again and catch us up at last into His waiting arms. Then, and only then, will we fully enter into the *Joy of all He's done*. But, Beloved, *if we so choose*, a great portion of that joy is available to us even today.

## THE JOY OF WHAT HE'S DONE

Oh, to remember the miracles,  
The marvels of days gone by;  
Oh, to recall the majesty of Elijah,  
Swept to the sky.

Oh, to see God's children  
Walk over on dusty ground,  
Only to have the Egyptians  
Swallowed in water and drowned.

Oh, to recall blessed Abraham  
As up to that mount He climbed,  
Ready to do what His God commands,  
Isaac a few steps behind.

Oh, to witness the battles;  
Oh, to recapture the thrill;  
Oh, to relive those moments,  
As though they were happening still.

And, oh, to remember in days gone by,  
The things He's done for me...  
That time He called my name in love,  
And soon I was set free.

That day He rescued me from death  
I never shall forget  
The time we gave our lives to Him,  
I can but see it yet.

Oh, the wonder of it all,  
It stills my anxious heart;  
It calms my very spirit,  
And Satan must depart.

Oh, beloved Jesus!  
We praise thee, Precious Son,  
For bringing back that matchless joy...  
The joy of what *You've* done.

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