

A LIFE OF JOY
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<p>οὐ γὰρ ἐστὶν ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ βρώσις καὶ πόσις ἀλλὰ δικαιοσύνη καὶ εἰρήνη καὶ χαρὰ ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίῳ</p>	<p>Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit</p>
<p>ὃν οὐκ ἰδόντες ἀγαπάτε, εἰς ὃν ἄρτι μὴ ὁρῶντες πιστεύοντες δὲ ἀγαλλιᾶσθε χαρᾷ ἀνεκλαλήτῳ καὶ δεδοξασμένῳ</p>	<p>1 Peter 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory</p>

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0. INTRODUCTION

- paradoxically: The question of JOY is very SERIOUS in the Christian life
- **Neh 8:10** ...do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength (כִּי־חֵדְוַת יְהוָה הִיא מְעֹזְכֶם).

0.1. THE HIERARCHY OF BEING → THE HIERARCHY OF JOYS

- (1) pleasures → **Cyrenaicism** The doctrine of Cyrenaics that people should ultimately aim at the pleasure of the present moment, disregarding future pain that could result from it
- (2) happiness → **Hedonism** definition, the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the highest good
- (3) joy → C.S. LEWIS

SURPRISED BY JOY

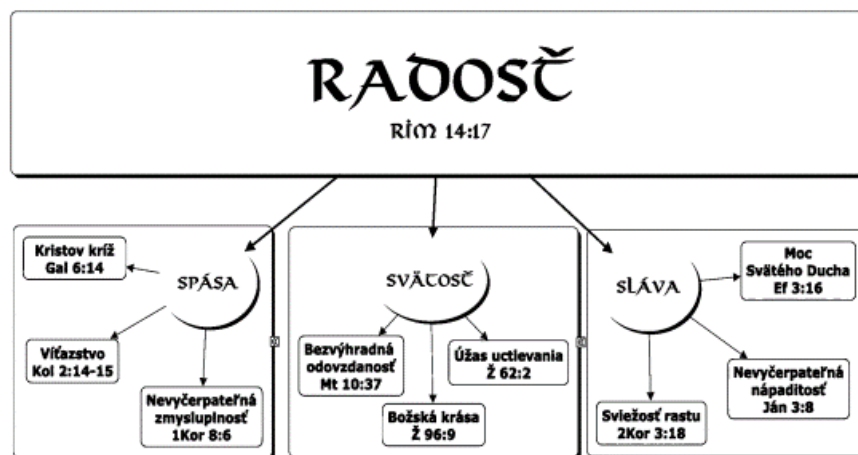
which is itself more desirable than any other satisfaction. I call it Joy, which is here a technical term and must be sharply distinguished both from Happiness and from Pleasure. Joy (in my sense) has indeed one characteristic, and one only, in common with them; the fact that anyone who has experienced it will want it again. Apart from that, and considered only in its quality, it might almost equally well be called a particular kind of unhappiness or grief. But then it is a kind we want. I doubt whether anyone who has tasted it would ever, if both were in his power, exchange it for all the pleasures in the world. But then Joy is never in our power and pleasure often is.

The reading of *Sobrab* had not given it to me. Joy is distinct not only from pleasure in general but even from aesthetic pleasure. It must have the stab, the pang, the inconsolable longing.

0.2. ANSWERING QOHELET

- : (1) **vanity** → meaningfulness – no exhaustion, (2) **death** → timelessness – no end (3) **boredom** / exhaustion → freshness – no boredom

SPIRITUAL JOY →		
→ sth. Inexhaustible	→ sth. Eternal	→ sth. Unlimited
MEANING	BEAUTY	GLORY
The joy of salvation Ps 16:8-11; 21:1-7; 32:8-11; 35:9; Lk 10:19-20;	The beauty of holiness 1Chron 16:29; Ps 29:2; 50:2; 96:9;	The creativity of the Spirit Pr 25:2; J 3:8;
Greatness of purpose/goal	Wonder of worship	Infinite inventiveness
The Cross of Christ	The Love of the Father	The Power of the Spirit



→ (1) Inexhaustible meaning (2) Eternal beauty (3) Unlimited glory

1. JOY → ENJOYING THE INEXHAUSTIBLE MEANING

The joy of salvation → joy of victory (Ex 15)

- **Ps 20:5** May we shout for joy over your salvation (וְרִנְנָה בִּישׁוּעָתְךָ), and in the name of our God set up our banners (וּבְשֵׁם-אֱלֹהֵינוּ נִדְגַל)! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions!
- **Ps 16:8-11** I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.⁹ Therefore my heart is glad (לִבִּי שִׂמְחָה לְבִי), and my whole being rejoices (וַיִּגַּל כְּבוֹדִי); my flesh also dwells secure (אֶף-בְּשָׂרִי יִשְׁכֵּן לְבִטָּחָה).¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.¹¹ You make known to me the path of life (); in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
- **Ps 21:1, 6-7** O LORD, in your strength the king rejoices For you make him most blessed forever; you make him glad with the joy of your presence.⁷ For the king trusts in the LORD, and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved
32:8-11; 35:9; Lk 10:19-20;

1.1. ADMIRE CHRIST

- **Col 2:2-3** ...the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (ἐν ᾧ εἰσιν πάντες οἱ θησαυροὶ τῆς σοφίας καὶ γνώσεως ἀπόκρυφοί)

- **Gal 6:14** But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

1.2. ENJOYING HIS VICTORY

- **2Cor 2:14** But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere

1.3. REMEMBER THE PURPOSE OF THE CREATION

- **1Cor 8:6** ...for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist

2. JOY → ENJOYING THE ETERNAL BEAUTY

The beauty of holiness → joy of wonder (**Ps 27:4** One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple [לְחַיֵּית בְּנַעַם יְהוָה])

“aesthetics” → **Phil 1:9** And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment (ἐν ἐπιγνώσει καὶ πάσῃ αἰσθήσει)

1Chron 16:29; Ps 29:2; 50:2; 96:9;

2.1. THE “ONE THING” → TOTAL COMMITMENT

- **Mt 10:37** Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me

2.2. KNOWING THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

Hebrew:	נָעִים
Transliteration:	nó'am
Phonetic:	no'-am
Word Origin:	From H5276
Bible Usage:	(beauty) pleasant (-ness).
Part of Speech:	Noun Masculine
Strong's Definition:	(agreeableness) that [is] delight: (suitableness) splendor or grace
Brown Driver Biggs Definition:	1. kindness, pleasantness, delightfulness, beauty, favour a. delightfulness b. symbolic name of one of two staves c. pleasantness
Bible References:	Ps 27:4 Ps 90:17 Zech 11:7 Zech 11:10
Beauty	
Translation Occurrences:	beauty (4) pleasant (2) pleasantness (1)

- **Ps 96:9** Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!
- **Ps 96:6** Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary (הוֹדֵי הַדָּר לְפָנָיו עֹז וְחַפְצָרֶת בְּמִקְדָּשׁוֹ)

2.3. EXPERIENCING THE MAJESTY OF GOD

- **Ps 62:1** For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation (אֵל־אֱלֹהִים דּוֹמְיָה נַפְשִׁי מִמֶּנּוּ יִשְׁעֵתִי)²

3. JOY → ENJOYING THE UNLIMITED GLORY

- **Col 1:11** May you be strengthened with all power (ἐν πάσῃ δυνάμει δυναμούμενοι), according to his glorious might (κατὰ τὸ κράτος τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ), for all endurance and patience with joy (εἰς πᾶσαν ὑπομονὴν καὶ μακροθυμίαν. Μετὰ χαρᾶς) → ...joyously¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light
- **1Cor 2:12** Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God

- **Ps 63:4-6** So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. ⁵ My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food (v.6 כִּמּוֹ חֶלֶב וְדָשֵׁן תִּשְׂבַּע נַפְשִׁי), and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, ⁶ when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night...

3.1. THE FRESHNESS OF THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- **2Cor 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit

3.2. INEXHAUSTIBLE CREATIVITY

- **John 3:8** The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.
- [“divine game”] **Pr 25:2** It is the glory of God to conceal things (כְּבֹד אֱלֹהִים תַּסְתֵּר דְּבָר), but the glory of kings is to search things out (וְכֹבֵד מְלָכִים יִחְקֹר דְּבָר)

3.3. EXPERIENCING THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **1Pt 1:8-9** Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory (ἀγαλλιᾶσθε χαρᾷ ἀνεκκαλήτῳ καὶ δεδοξασμένῃ), ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- D. M. Lloyd-Jones: *Joy Unspeakable*:

Joy, Love and Understanding – We have seen that when Christians are baptized by the Holy Spirit, they have a sense of the power and presence of God that they have never known before—and that this is the greatest possible form of assurance. A Christian is not so much an advocate, as a witness, and this witness is not effective without assurance. The certainty that comes with assurance—‘I know in whom I have believed’—is the obvious and greatest necessity in connection with witnessing. ...The next manifestation, therefore, and I think you will agree that it follows quite inevitably from all that we have been seeing, is, of course, the element of joy and of gladness. Here is something that you find running through the New Testament. There is no more exhilarating book extant today than this and in particular, perhaps, this is true of Acts. What a thrilling book it is! And this is the great note, ‘And they’, we read in chapter two, ‘continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart’. That is it! Now these were not only the apostles, but also the three thousand people whose names we do not know; ordinary people if you like, but people who were filled with this same spirit of joy and of rejoicing.

4. TO REMEMBER

- Do you *see* (perceive) and understand the hierarchy of values?
- Are you willing to sacrifice the lower to get the higher? (physical → psychological → spiritual)
- Are you learning how to enjoy the invisible wealth of God in the Spirit?