

True Joy and Fellowship with Jesus Talk 5

Overview: There are two large truths in view tonight in this talk concerning true joy and the experience of it. First, joy in the human heart can only be experienced in and through Jesus Christ and His saving work. Second, the experience of fellowshiping with Jesus in discipleship is the means of engaging and knowing true joy.

LOVING JESUS:

1 Peter 1:8 “Though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.”

Colossians 3:4 “When Christ, who is your life, is revealed; then you also will be revealed with Him in glory”

Philippians 1:21; 3:8, 10 “For me to live is Christ...I count all things loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.”

John 21:15-17 “Do you love Me?”

John 8:42 “If God were your Father, you would love Me”

1 Corinthians 16:22 “He who does not love the Lord, let him be accursed.”

Loving Jesus Means:

1. Jesus is your highest value in life, your highest priority in life, your greatest love in life.
2. Jesus is your supreme hope in this life, before the judgment of God, and eternity.
3. Jesus is your greatest and most intimate friend and companion.

FELLOWSHIPING WITH JESUS (defined: experiencing His presence and intimacy)

Fellowshipping in Obedience – Matthew 12:48-50; 1 John 2:6

- When we seek to obey Jesus in the light of clear teaching of the Scripture, we are acknowledging His Lordship over us, and it is saying that we aspire to honor Him by obeying His teaching.

Fellowshipping among Christians – Matthew 18:20; Luke 8:21

- There is a special blessing when God’s people come together to share the truth, grace, and love of the Lord. There is nothing quite like it. Christ in His mercy and presence is there.

Fellowshipping through Soul Commitment – John 6:53, 56

- Faith in Jesus includes commitment to Jesus and receiving Jesus as one’s life. There is oneness in this that can only be described as being united to Christ.

Fellowshipping resulting in Intimacy – John 14:20-23; 17:26

- Union with Christ by necessity includes intimacy with Christ, which involves fellowshipping with Christ.

Fellowshipping in Dependence – John 15:4-5

- Dependence upon Christ by the Christian is total. Jesus is our life, our strength, and our all. By His grace we can do all that He requires and commands us to do, and without Him we can do nothing.

Fellowshipping in Abiding Truth – John 15:7

- Abiding in Christ, the abiding of His words in us, and our prayer life form the triangle of fellowship. Our fellowship with Christ includes the abiding of His Word in us, our abiding in Christ through grace and obedience, and our prayer life that stems from these things brings us into close contact with Jesus.

Fellowshipping in Suffering – Philippians 3:10

- Suffering brings us down that Christ might be exalted.
- Suffering exposes our sins that Christ might cleanse us.
- Suffering exposes our weaknesses that Christ might be our friend.
- Suffering shows us our need for Christ's fellowship and provides the context for the same.

The Soul's Joy in Jesus

- Joy can only be experienced in and through Jesus Christ
 - Sin is the loss of God, the loss of relationship with God, and the loss of joy in God.
 - Salvation is the regaining of God, the regaining of one's relationship with God, and the regaining of joy in God, all through Jesus Christ and His salvation.
 - Philippians 3:7-10 Paul was willing to lose everything that he might gain Christ. The loss heightened the joy of receiving Christ, knowing Christ, and being alive in Christ.
- Jesus gives true joy to Christians
 - Through His atoning sacrifice for us
 - Through His gift of life to us
 - Through His claiming us for Himself
 - Through His providential shepherding of us and walking with us through trials
 - Through His living with us in heaven

Means of Joy and Fellowship with Jesus

- True Joy and Fellowship with Jesus in the Word
 - Engaging with Christ's mind in understanding (Luke 24:25-27, 32)
 - Engaging with Christ's goodness in obedience and righteousness (Luke 11:28)
 - The Word of God is living, active, and piercing (Hebrews 4:12)

- The Word of God exposing all sin that keeps us from joy in Christ.
 - The Word of God brings cleansing, forgiveness, and healing for restored joy.
 - The Word of God gives us understanding of the life we have in Christ. (Psalm 119:105, 107, 130)
- True Joy and Fellowship with Jesus in Prayer (Jesus fellowships with us as we pray)
 - Prayer of praise and adoration
 - Prayer of supplication and petition
 - Prayer of guidance and protection
 - Prayer of intercession
 - True Joy and Fellowship with Jesus in Trials (Philippians 3:10; Romans 8:17)
 - Trials make us run to Jesus
 - Trials make us distrust ourselves
 - Trials get our priorities straight
 - Trials heighten our desire for the Lord and heaven
 - Trials make us draw fellowship from Jesus.

Maintenance of Fellowship with Jesus and True Joy

- Daily Devotions
- Growth in Knowledge and Grace in Godliness
- Maintenance of Peace and Contentment in Life's Trials
- Maintenance of Gratitude and True Joy
- The Depth of Prayer
- The Development and Growth of Holy Aspiration
 - Maranatha – Waiting and Joyfully Looking for Christ's Return (life purpose and dream)
- Facing Death and the Joy of Fellowshiping with Jesus (see next point)

True Joy and Heaven with Jesus

The Christian faith teaches that heaven for the Christian is complete joy, eternal joy, and heavenly joy. Heaven is full of holiness, truth, and the glory of God. God's people are there, and because heaven is what heaven is, it is joyful. Matthew 25:21; Revelation 21:4

- Heavenly Joy and the Absence of Sin
- Heaven's Joys and Eternal Glory in View of Earth's Pain
- Heaven's Joys and the shared Glory of God
- Heaven's Joys and Light of Truth

When we leave this low land
We will cross the Jordan
Pass this chilling torrent
Heaven's joy awaits
Heaven is just beyond the blue horizon
Just above the starry sky, the starry blue sky
Far above this land of sorrow
Way above each tear and sigh
Just a few more miles before us
Just a little while to wait, patiently wait
Soon, we'll sing redemptions chorus
Heaven's joy awaits, heaven awaits
Heaven's breeze is blowing
Gently to recalling
I will soon be going
Through the Pearly Gates
Heaven is just beyond the blue horizon
Just above the starry sky, starry blue sky
Far above this land of sorrow
Way above each tear and sigh, every sigh
Just a few more miles before us
Just a little time to wait, patiently wait
Soon, we'll sing redemptions chorus
Heaven's joy awaits, heaven awaits (up there where heaven's joy awaits) (Vep Ellis)