

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Salvation Joy 1 Peter 1:6-9 Part One

In **Luke 15** there are three different stories illustrating for us the joy associated with sinners coming to repentance.

1) The first story involves 100 sheep and is found in **VV. 1-7**. There was a shepherd who had 100 sheep but one of those became lost. Having discovered the sheep missing he left the 99 and went to find the one. When he found the single lost sheep he put it upon his shoulders and rejoiced. Christ in explaining this parable said in **V.7** **“In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”**

2) The second story involves 10 coins and is found in **VV. 8-10**. There was a woman who had 10 coins but one of those coins became lost. After making a thorough search of the house she finds the coin. After finding the coin she calls her friends and neighbors, saying, **“Rejoice, with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!”** Christ in explaining this parable said in **V. 10** **“In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of angels of God over one sinner who repents.”**

3) The third story involves two sons in **VV. 11-32**. There was a father who had two sons. The younger of the two sons asked his father for his inheritance. The son after receiving his inheritance left his family and consumed his inheritance of worldly pleasures. After becoming destitute he becomes broken and returns back to his father intending to make himself a servant. But rather than being made a servant the father receives him with joy. And when the elder son protests what does the father say to him? Look at **V. 31,32** **“And he said to him, My child, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. (32) But we had to be merry and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.”**

IN EACH OF THESE THREE STORIES SALVATION AND JOYFUL CELEBRATION BELONG TOGETHER.

Certainly as we contemplate our salvation we will be filled with thanksgiving to the Lord. We saw this manifested by Peter in **1 Peter 1:3-5.....** **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” (4) to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (5) who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”** In these three verses we see praise being lifted up to the Lord for the great work He has done on our behalf through Jesus.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

As we come now to **1 Peter 1:6-9** we will not be focusing so much on the praise that is being or should be lifted to the father in light of our salvation but rather we will be focusing upon the joy that we will experience in light of our salvation. **NOT ONLY DO WE FIND THAT MEDITATION AND REFLECTION UPON OUR SALVATION PRODUCES THANKSGIVING TO GOD BUT IT ALSO PRODUCES PERSONAL JOY.**

Let us read **1 Peter 1:6-9**, **“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials (7) that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (8) And 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, (9) obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.**

In **V. 6** we find the first reference to “joy” in the phrase **“in this you greatly rejoice.”** Then we find the second reference to joy in **V. 8** in the phrase **“you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.”** These references to joy are in the context of our salvation, **V. 9 “obtaining the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.”** Throughout the scriptures there is a close connection between salvation and joy.

Is. 35:10 “And the ransomed of the Lord will return, and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.”

Is. 61:10 “I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, My soul will exalt in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Luke 2:10 “And the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all the people’”

When we come to Christ and receive the gift of eternal life we should expect that our life will be characterized not only by thanksgiving to the Lord but also an inward personal joy.

Those people that Peter is writing need to know this. They are a people who have begun to suffer for their faith and would be continuing to suffer for their faith in the future. **THESE PEOPLE NEEDED TO KNOW HOW THEY COULD EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF THEIR SALVATION IN THE MIDST OF THEIR SUFFERING. THEY NEEDED TO KNOW HOW THEY COULD CAPTURE THE JOY OF THEIR SALVATION IN THE MIDST OF THEIR PAIN. PETER IN RESPONSE TO THIS NEED SHARES FIVE DIFFERENT SOURCES OF JOY ALL RELATED TO THEIR SALVATION.**

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

IT COMES FROM THE CERTAINTY OF SALVATION

As we begin to look at **V. 6** we read **“In this you greatly rejoice.....”** What is the “this” referring to? What is the antecedent? If we can discover what the “this” is referring to then we will be able to know what is causing them to **“greatly rejoice.”**

Let us read the verses immediately preceding, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”** Is it referring to, “the the salvation ready to be revealed in the last time?” Certainly this is something that we can rejoice in but grammatically it is very unlikely. The relative “this” in **V. 6** is either neuter or masculine in gender while the word “salvation” at the end of **V. 5** is feminine gender. If the “in this” was referring back to the immediately preceding phrase then the gender would have had to agree. We must therefore conclude that the “in this” is not referring to the immediately preceding statement but rather to the immediately preceding idea contained in the whole of the preceding passage.

And what was that idea? THE CERTAINTY OF OUR SALVATION. Because the inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading has been reserved in heaven for us. And because we, as heirs, are being protected by the power of God we can be certain that we will in the Lord’s time enter into the fullness of all that the Lord has prepared for us in Christ. THIS CERTAINTY, THIS CONFIDENCE SHOULD BE THE SOURCE OF JOY BUT NOT JUST SIMPLY JOY BUT WHAT? GREAT JOY!! Look again at what Peter says to his readers, **“In this you greatly rejoice.”** The word translated in this passage “great joy” is the same word translated in **Matt. 5:12** in the KJV “exceedingly glad.” The joy that should be a part of our lives in light of the certainty of our salvation should be “great joy” , it should be “exceeding joy.”

Has this been your experience? Has this been true of your life? Some here this morning may have to confess that this has not been their experience. Some here this morning would have to confess that they find themselves without joy. Some here this morning might even have to confess that their lives are characterized by discouragement and despair. Does this lack of joy indicate that they have not been born again? That they truly have not been saved? Not necessarily.

They may be failing to experience joy because they lack confidence in the certainty of their salvation. They may not have come to the point of embracing the fact that the salvation that they have received in Christ has been reserved in heaven. They may not have come to the point of embracing the fact that they have heirs of being protected by the power of God. This lack of confidence in the certainty of their salvation might be the cause of their lack of joy. And I can understand this problem. A person truly can never come to the point where they are secure in their salvation it will be extremely difficult to enter into a kind of joy that is being described for us here..... Consider a person, let us say, that is married to a person who is here one day and then gone the next. That person never really knows if their marriage is secure or not. How able are they to enter into the joy of their marriage? I believe that until they are able to rest in the certainty of their relationship that there never will be great joy.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

But this is not the only reason why an individual who is truly born again may not experience the joy associated with the certainty of their salvation. Another reason is sin. In order for us to enter into the joy of our salvation the Spirit of God must be at work within our lives to produce it and if there is sin the Spirit of God will be grieved. His work will be suppressed. Consider **1 Thess. 1:6** “**You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit.**” The joy found in believer's lives is attributed to the work of the Holy Spirit. Remember the list of the fruit of the Spirit found in **Gal. 5:22-23** “**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**” The Spirit of God has always been the source of joy in the lives of the redeemed and personal sin has always taken the joy of their salvation from them. Consider **Ps. 51:10** “**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (11) Do not cast me away from Thy presence, and do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me. (12) Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit.**” The work of God’s Spirit had been quenched in David’s life. He had lost the joy of his salvation.

If we are going to enter in the joy associated with the certainty of our salvation. We must be informed. We also need to be yielded to the Lord so that His Spirit might fill us. CAN WE EXPECT THAT THIS JOY COULD BE OUR CONTINUAL EXPERIENCE? CAN WE EXPECT THAT THIS JOY COULD BE WITH US IN ALL SITUATIONS OF LIFE AND AT ALL TIMES? DID JESUS WHEN HE SPOKE OF THE LIFE THAT WE WOULD ENJOY IN HIM ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT WE COULD ANTICIPATE THIS KIND OF CONSISTENT PERPETUAL JOY?

Let us go back for a moment in time to just prior to the crucifixion of Christ. Turn in your bibles to **John 16**. Jesus earlier in this chapter has been talking about the coming of the Spirit which he would send to His disciples. Then we come to **V. 16** and there we read “**A little while, and you will no longer behold Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me.**” Then it says..... **READ VV. 17-22.....** Isn’t that last verse a great promise. “**Therefore you too now have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one takes your joy away from you.**”

Where does the world find their joy? They find their joy in things that are temporal, in things that are passing. The world does offer joy but it is a second rate kind of joy when compared to what Christ is offering because the joy found in the world is fleeting. One day it is here and the next day it is gone.

A. Consider Randy Pfund the recently fired Laker coach.

B. Consider the family of Donaldo Colosio who months earlier saw their husband and father selected by the current President of Mexico as his successor. However their joy saw turned to sorrow just a few days ago when he was assassinated in Tijuana.

The world certainly experiences joy, the world experiences joy in many different things but their joys are temporal, their joys are fleeting.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Where do we find our joy? We find our joy in our the certainty of our salvation. Is this fleeting?
Absolutely not!! Our salvation is certain. Our inheritance has been reserved in heaven for us and we as heirs are being protected by the power of God.

The certainty of our salvation should not only lead us to lift up praise and thanksgiving to the Lord as we have seen in **VV. 3-5**. But it should also lead us to experience great joy.

CONCLUSION

If you are here this morning and have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior you have received the Holy Spirit into your life.

If you have received the Holy Spirit into your life it is His work to produce joy within your life. If you are yielded to Him He will be able to go about His work freely.

If you this morning have made it possible for the Spirit of God to go about His work freely through a willingness to submit your life to the will of God then the Spirit of God is able to minister the truth of God's word about Salvation to your life.

If the Spirit of God is now able to minister the truth of God's Word about salvation to your life then as we learn that our salvation is certain it will produce joy. It is truly a wonderful thing for us to know that because our salvation has been reserved for us in heaven and we as heirs are being protected by the power of God that are salvation is certain. And this is particular important when we are going through difficulties.