

# *Mt. Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church*

Teaching Ministry

4.26.2026

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Spiritual Joy

## **James 1: 1 – 8, 12 – 18**

As believers, we are encouraged by the word of God to continue to find spiritual joy as we go through difficult and trying circumstances in our life in Christ. This means, that we should not pray that trials and temptations will not come, but we pray that God will give unto us the wisdom, and the knowledge to understand his divine purpose while we are in the midst of the situations and circumstances that we face. Therefore, the key to accepting the consequences of our trials and tribulations is to maintain a positive godly attitude throughout our afflictions. Suffering throughout the trials and tribulations in our life will bring understanding from God, and this understanding will exceed any benefits that we could ever gain in the world. Our faith only grows stronger when we are tested, testing that comes unto us by the grace and mercy of God. Now, our spiritual joy is rooted in our relationship with God. It comes by the Holy Spirit providing unto us peace, strength, and confidence even when difficult times persist. We find a deep satisfaction in knowing that in Gods presence comes the promise of our eternal hope. Our spiritual joy is not dependent upon materialistic wealth or personal success, but it comes through prayer, focusing on the promises and commandments of Gods word. It is a gift from God that sustains and empowers us, giving unto us a sense of security that helps us to recognize his presence in our life.

**1 Peter 1: 7,....**that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ....

Trusting God through our trials and tribulations is a step in the right direction to becoming Christlike, which means having a greater, more in depth, spiritual maturity, that produces a greater endurance in our life in Christ. This makes our relationship between our love for God, and our abilities in him to remain faithful, especially in our time of need, and it makes our connection to him grow stronger, and redefines our trust, which increases our dependence upon the Lord. As believers, we need this, because we do not have the ability to stand firmly in this world by our own strength. Therefore, it is necessary that we remain rooted and grounded in the word of God, and that we do not rely on our own sufficiency and strength. Let us remember that the difficulties that we face in life can cause us to stumble and fall and will tempt us to fall prey to the deception of doubt and despair in our life. Therefore, we must continually seek to stand firm in Christ, and we do this through the leadership and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as we hold fast to his promises, which not only benefits ourselves, but also others within the body of Christ, and works toward the greater glory of God.

**James 1: 1 – 8**,....James, a servant of God....my brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations....knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience....let patience have her perfect work....perfect and entire, wanting nothing....if any....lack wisdom, let him ask of God....let him ask in faith, nothing wavering....for let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the lord....a double minded man is unstable in all his ways....

So, what is it that best describes our relationship with God. Is it that we are his children, the servants of an almighty God. Once we come to Christ by faith believing, and we have received his forgiveness for a debt paid, we are now empowered by his spirit, and it is by that same power of the resurrection that we now have obtained the ability to resist sin. Therefore, we are no longer slaves to sin, because sin is no longer our master, we are now heirs of the righteousness of God. We now belong to God, and we desire to do those things that please him, therefore, we have become obedient servants to Christ, and to his word, and we are no longer under the penalty of death, and we are no longer separated from God, for we are joint heirs with him.

**Romans 1: 1**,....a servant of Jesus Christ....separated unto God....

So, even though we are now set free from sin, we still live in the presence of sin, and the only way that we can continue to be free from the power of sin is by the power of the Holy Spirit that indwells within us. This seals us in Christ, and we have now become bondservants or slaves of Christ. We now live a life of total devotion, with a divine purpose in absolute submission to him, proclaiming the good news of his saving grace to the world. We belong to Christ, submitting unto him every decision, separating ourselves from worldly pursuits, focusing on our obedience to the gospel, and living a life of surrender unto Christ.

**1 Corinthians 7: 22 – 24**,....he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lords freeman, likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ servant....ye are bought with a price....let everyman, wherein he is called, therein abide with God....

So, how often do we desire a life free from worldly strife, and how often do we pray for a way of escaping from the trials and tribulations that we face. Gods desire for us is that we learn the important lessons that come through the circumstances of our life. These lessons teach us spiritual truths, truths that we might have otherwise missed out on. These difficult trials are used by God to test our faith in him, so that he may bring us into a deeper, more consistent dependency in him, and in his unconditional love. Our focus is now on maintaining a closer walk with God regardless of life's hardships.

**James 1: 12 – 16**,....blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is tried, he shall receive a crown of life....let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God....every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed....then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin....bringeth forth death....do not err....

Temptations are going to come, but be certain that God does not send them, but he does allow them to occur in our life. This means that any kind of worldly desire conceived in the wrong way, whether good or bad, can lead us into sin. The desire to commit sin comes from within, and sin occurs when we yield to these worldly temptations and lustful desires. But blessed is the man that endureth, because endurance proves true faith, which encourages and challenges us to persevere while patiently waiting, standing steadfast in his love, continuing daily in well doing.

**1 John 2: 15 – 17**,....love not the world, neither the things that are in the world....the lust of the flesh....the lust of the eyes....the pride of life....the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever....

Sadly, it is not if we will give into temptation, but when we give into temptation, then we will sin, but when we resist, then God will turn those temptations into a meaningful trial, which he will use for his greater good, and for his greater glory. God, in his wisdom and grace gave unto all of humanity free will, so that we might make our own choices. This means that when we are tempted, it is our choice whether we sin or not, but the choice which we are actually making is not a choice of whether to sin or not to sin, but a choice of whether we are going to follow after the pathway of his righteousness, yielding to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, a pathway of obedience or disobedience to his word. We are responsible for the choices that we make, and the consequences that will follow.

**Jerimiah 17: 9 – 10**,....the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it....I the Lord search the heart....

Even though, sometimes the truth hurts, especially when we try to justify our sinful choices. Each one is tempted to sin, and anyone who gives into that temptation will stand silent before God, without excuse, for it is our own inner passion that carries us away. But God holds absolute knowledge of our inner most motives, our thoughts, and our hidden desires, and calls for us to trust in his divine examination of our life, encouraging us to walk in obedience to do his service, which comes from a sincere heart where our true spiritual joy lies. That is why he tells in:

**James 1: 17 – 18**,....every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variable....of his own will begat he us with the word of truth....

So, God is the source of all wisdom, knowledge and understanding, and unlike temptation and its variables, which is always changing, God never changes and is the author of the word of truth and of the faith which we have. God's word of faith and truth is the word by which the gospel is preached.

**1 Peter 1: 25**,....but the word of the Lord endureth forever....and this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you....

It is only God's love that enables us to endure all that he allows to take place in our life. So, we must be careful not to confuse our worldly lustful desires with his will. Let us remember that a godly life begins with a proper understanding of Gods nature, and an understanding of his purpose and will for our life, which is set forth unto us in his word. This is what creates within us our life in Christ, for the word of God and the salvation that it offers is eternal and unchanging. The gospel is a living force that transforms lives, it is a divine message that gives unto us the ability to love one another just as God through Christ hath loved us, it gives unto us the hope of our eternal life, a hope that is secure and will not fade away, a hope of unchanging promises that will always continue to instill within us spiritual joy.

Let us Pray.

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