

Joy-Seeker: The Joy of Our Conversion

1 Peter 1:3-8

1 Peter 1:3-8 NKJV - 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

What is being a Christian all about?

James 2:19, "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!"

"[Faith] is the confidence that He will come through with His promises and that what He promises is more to be desired than all the world." –John Piper

Psalms 51:13, "Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You."

Acts 15:3, "...describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren."

1.) The Nature of our Conversion.

1 Peter 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

John 3:3, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Deuteronomy 30:6, "the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live."

Jeremiah 24:7, "Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God. for they shall return to Me with their whole heart."

Ezekiel 36:26-27, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."

Psalms 22:9-10, "You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts. 10 I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother's womb You have been My God."

2.) The Effect of our Conversion.

1 Peter 1:8, "...whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,"

"If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him." (1 John 2:29)

"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death." (1 John 3:14)

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God." (1 John 4:7)

"Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him." (1 John 5:1)

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." (1 John 5:4)

For the Christian, joy is first and foremost the enjoyment of God.

1 Peter 4:12-13, "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; **13** but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings."

"[Christianity] banishes the delights and pleasures of sin, but it is to exchange them for this joy that unspeakably surpasses them. It calls men from sordid and base delights to those that are pure delights indeed: it calls to men, Drink no longer from the puddle—here are the crystal streams of a living fountain." – Robert Latan

"it is joy to be able to face the facts, all the facts, square in the face. Joy to be able to know and to think and to be unafraid." – J.C. Ryle

3.) The Cause of our Conversion.

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Romans 10:13, "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

"There is no other way to the happiness for which we were made. If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire: if you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them. They are not a sort of prize which God could, if He chose, hand out to anyone. They are a great fountain of energy and beauty spurting up at the very centre of reality. If you are close to it, the spray will wet you: if you are not, you will remain dry." –C.S. Lewis