

The Holy Spirit and Joy

Joy is the most infallible sign of the presence of God. (Pierre Teilhard de Chardin)

As Jesus was sharing his last lessons with the disciples (John 13-17) before he was crucified, he said, ***Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy.*** (John 16:20)

How could it be that the pain felt by the disciples and all who loved Jesus would turn into JOY? Here are three key points that explain it.

1. Although Jesus would die, he would be raised and would appear to the disciples and many others before ascending to his Father in heaven. He promised! ***So you have pain now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.*** (John 16:22)
2. Although Jesus would ascend to his Father in heaven, Jesus and the Father through the Holy Spirit ***...will come to them and make our home with them.*** (John 14:23) The Triune God would live in the hearts of all believers!
3. Although Jesus was going, he promised, ***...I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.*** (John 14:3b)

- Think about Christian loved ones and friends who seem to be genuinely joyful. What characterizes their behavior? One thing might be – they are not easily offended. What else?

The Apostle Paul spoke specifically about the need (opportunity and privilege) for Christians to rejoice. His letter to the Philippians was clearly reminding this church of the importance of being filled with joy and demonstrating such as they rejoiced in the Lord. (Philippians 4:4) Also read Phil. 4:5-8. What aids rejoicing?

As Christmas approaches, we will likely be reminded of the words proclaimed to the shepherds. ***But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”*** (Luke 2:10)

Let the Spirit work in your heart and choose joy over fear – all because of Jesus!

Your joy may convince others to believe in Christ Jesus.