The Joy of the Kingdom of God

When we get into the school we have dreamed of attending, or land a job we have long wanted, we cannot help but rejoice.

Yet that joy cannot compare with the joy of knowing you have been admitted into the Kingdom of Heaven, of knowing your name is written in heaven, so that you may dwell for all eternity with the righteous. (Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. Luke 10:20)

It is a great joy to know you have been admitted into the school of Christ, that the Lord has chosen you so that He may work in you to make you perfect, to make you like Himself. (My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire… James 1:2-4)

For many people, being persecuted or mocked is unbearable, but for those who have chosen the values of the Kingdom, it is a joy to know they have been counted worthy to be shaped in the school of suffering. (And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. Acts 5:41)

In the same way, for most people it is a great calamity to have the things they have worked hard for taken from them, and it drives many to the brink of depression. But for those who have chosen the Kingdom of God, it is a reason for joy when the Lord counts them worthy to suffer the loss of the goods they need to live. (…and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods. Hebrews 10:34)

Unlike the joy the world gives, which may come from some gain or a promotion, those who are in the Kingdom rejoice when they go through trouble, with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit. (…having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost. 1 Thessalonians 1:6; …now rejoice in my sufferings. Colossians 1:24)

When we keep the Word of peace and righteousness, persecution will come, but so will joy! (Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:10)

The fullness of joy that comes from the Holy Spirit is what we will find in the eternal Kingdom, and there it will last forever. (And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 35:10)

Joy is the fruit of keeping the Word of Christ. Joy is a crown on the fruit of the Spirit: the joy of being brought through trials so that you may grow in longsuffering, goodness, gentleness, love… (Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him

endured the cross. Hebrews 12:2)

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