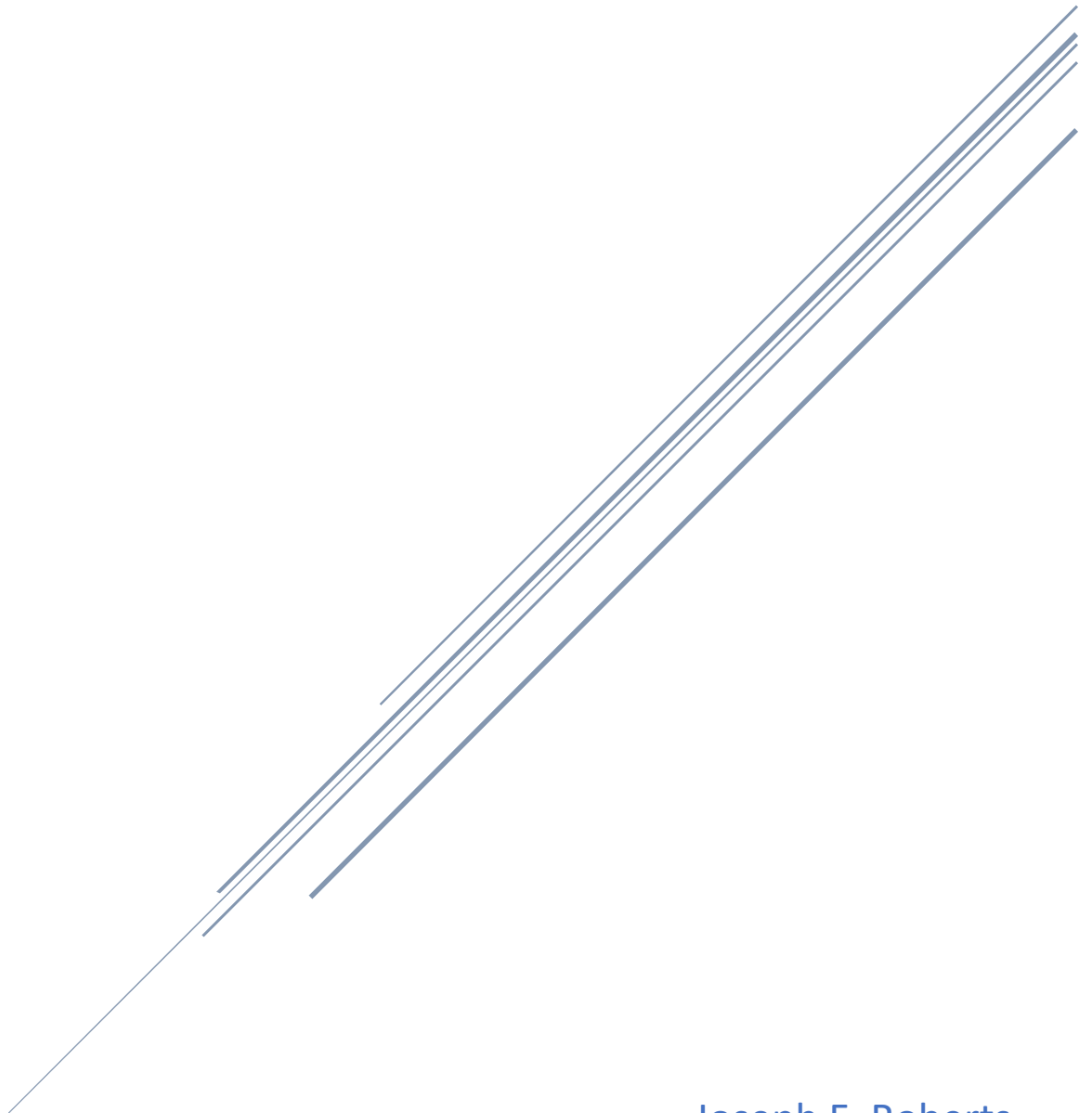


# HOW TO BE

How to be Humble, Joyful, Kind, Meek, Obedient, Pure



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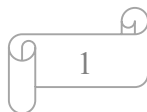
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## Preface

In the secular world, the Book and eBook Market is flooded with “How To” e-books. There are “How To” books on almost any subject available. You notice I said, “Almost.” Rarely have I seen any Christian or Bible writer or author write any “How To” materials on hardly any subject. Do not God’s people need to know “How To” whatever in terms of how to live a Christian life, how to do this or that for the Lord, and the list could be almost endless. Many secular “How To” e-books, or even printed books, generate hundreds, even thousands of dollars for their writers and publishers. Now, I am not writing these e-books to make money, my aim is to inform, educate and equip God’s people for better service to Him.

Many times, we feel that God would have us to do something, but we have no idea on how to start. Me, I was fortunate to have a pastor like Bro. Glen Davenport—now Dr. Davenport—who was interested enough in me to take me aside and teach me small practical things as a pastor that I would have to learn the hard way otherwise. One of the things I distinctly remember all those years ago, was him taking me into the back of the church building where he was preparing for us to observe the Lord’s Supper. He said he did not know if I knew how to prepare for the actual supper or not, so, he thought it would be good that he teach me how to prepare the drink and the bread. He gave me practical instruction that benefited me the rest of my ministry.

As a young preacher, I was always afraid of preaching something or saying something that would take away from him and his being our pastor. He seemed to sense this and one day took me aside and gave me this counsel: He said, “Any time either of us get into the pulpit, let us make sure that we give the people something from God’s Word that they need.” That was good advice! That radically changed my preaching. From that time on, for almost 50 years, each time that I have gotten behind a pulpit to proclaim God’s Word, I have endeavored to give those listening something that they could use in their lives and their service for the Lord. I don’t claim that I always succeeded, but that was my intent and heart’s desire.

I give this background to lay this foundation, this is the purpose of the “How To” e-books that I write. A child of God needs to know why he or she is a child of God, what they should believe being that child and lastly, be able to communicate that knowledge to someone else. I am striving to give practical instruction on whatever the “How To” is. I have chosen to use this methodology in order to get the truth of God’s Word to as many as possible. My prayer is that you, the reader, will be able to use what has been written here to help you be a better servant for the Lord. If it does, then I will have succeeded, whether I ever know it or not.

## Introduction

I'm sure that you noticed that this is a multi-titled e-book. "How To" and then six different things were added, Humble, Joyful, Kind, Meek, Obedient and Pure. The Bible teaches that we are to be all of those, but sometimes we are not sure how we are to be humble, joyful, etc. That is the purpose of this e-book, that we will know how to be humble, how to be joyful, how to be kind, how to be meek, how to be obedient and finally, how to be pure.

This e-book was developed from sermons that I have preached on these items. I hope they will give you the "practical" on "how to be" what the Lord would have you to be.

May God bless you richly as you work your way through this booklet.

## Chapter One

### How To Be Humble

James 4:10 KJV *10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

#### Chapter Introduction

Someone has rightly said “Humility is something that once you realize you have it, it is gone.” It does seem to be evasive, but true humility is possible for every child of God. Yes, I said for EVERY child of God. I know, we all know some people who couldn’t be humble if it was handed to them on a silver platter! However, that ought not to be with a child of God. If we really want to be able to serve God the way He wants us to serve Him, then we must learn how to be humble.

Humility is defined in Bancroft’s Elemental Theology as “that attitude of mind and heart which is opposed to pride, self-assertion, and self-reliance and that shows itself in subjugation to and dependence upon God.”

Mature humility is not necessarily in the person who appears to be humble. Long faces and sad looks are not humility. In Matthew 5:3, Jesus had this to say: Matthew 5:3 KJV *3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* The word “blessed” literally means “happy.” So that being the case, this verse would then read, “happy are the poor in spirit...”

Just as long faces and sad looks are not humility, neither is humility characterized by timidity or quietness. Humility is an inward attitude.

#### Humility Exemplified by Jesus

The second person of the Godhead, Jesus Christ, has shown an attitude of humility from eternity past. The Scriptures record His willingness to die for the sins of mankind even before there were any men! Revelation 13:8 states that He was slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 13:8 KJV *8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Later, Jesus demonstrated humility in His birth. He clothed Himself in human flesh which was a condescending act on His part. The great Creator

took on the form of the servant. Actually, not just any servant, but the lowest servant in the structure. In the book of John where Jesus washed the disciple's feet, He took on the role of the lowest servant in a household. It was the task of the lowest servant in the household to wash the feet of the guests who enter therein. You can't get any "lower" than this. Jesus did not concern Himself that He was putting Himself in the place of the lowest servant. He wanted the disciples to copy Him by placing themselves also in the place of the lowest servant in the structure.

If you are familiar with this portion of the Bible, you will readily know that Jesus was teaching more than one lesson when He did this, but His humility is the lesson that we want to concentrate on in this lesson. Those other lessons, and there are plenty and the entire portion, should be studied with great care. Without careful study, one might mistake what Jesus was doing that night.

As was stated before, the Great Creator took on the form of the servant. Instead of a regal palace being made ready for His birth, He was born in a lowly stable. The stable in which He was born was not an ordinary stable either. Oh, it might look that way to the physical eye, but Pastor Bernie Dixon, my pastor, recently in his research on the subject, found that the stable was one in which the lambs that were destined for sacrifice were cared for. What a picture that is! The sheep that the shepherds in the field were caring for were sheep that were destined to be offered as sacrifices. The Lamb of God being born into this world in the very stable that the sheep who were offered for the daily and special sacrifices were kept. Wow, if that doesn't light your fire, your wood is wet! And, what a picture of humility it is as well.

The Lord's life on this earth portrayed a sadist's life. He was constantly badgered by sinful men who supposed He was some kind of imposter. He laid aside the worship by angels and according to Hebrews 2:9, became lower than them.

*Hebrews 2:9 KJV 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

In laying aside His glory and honor, He received the abuse and hatred of mankind. Even while on the cross, with the angels just waiting for one small word from Him and they would release Him, but He did not because He humbled Himself to the death on the cross for the redemption of mankind.

Just hours before when He was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane after Peter had tried to take off the head of the servant of the High Priest, He said:

*Matthew 26:53 KJV 53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve*

### *legions of angels?*

He purposely represented Himself as a humble servant while on earth. He, the King of glory, was willing to become a servant to His own creation. He Himself said in Matthew 20:28, Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

As I mentioned previously, on one occasion, in John 13, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. By this He showed His own humility and taught them an important lesson also. His entire life on earth was characterized by servitude.

Not only did He display humility by His actions, but He also taught it by word. He told His church that the only way to true greatness in the Kingdom of God was by putting yourself in a humble position.

That is in Luke 22:24-27.

*Luke 22:24-27 KJV 24 And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. 25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. 26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. 27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? Is not he that sitteth at meat? But I am among you as he that serveth.*

He even associated with known sinners, according to Luke 15:1, 2.

*Luke 15:1-2 KJV 1 Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.*

As a matter of fact, He came to save sinners. His dealings with sinners showed Him to be humble in His life on earth.

*Luke 19:10 KJV 10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

*1 Timothy 1:15 KJV 15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

Calvary was the peak demonstration of Christ's humility. He was degraded by the mock trials, the beatings with the whip, being spat upon, reviled, and



mocked. The cross itself was a most humiliating thing. God stated in Deuteronomy 21:22, 23, that a person was cursed if he hung on a tree.

*Deuteronomy 21:22-23 KJV 22 And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: 23 His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God ☹️) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.*

Not only did God state what He did, the Romans only executed criminals and persons who had committed treason by crucifixion. Thus, He was counted with the crooks. What a humiliation for the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Jesus was totally submissive to the Father. Even to the point of the Father turning His back on Him while He was hanging on the cross. Yes, Jesus is the great Example of Humility.

### The Way to Achieve Humility

In the context of Paul's exhortation for the saints to be humble, he said in Philippians 2:5:

*Philippians 2:5 KJV 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:* This means the key to humility is to allow ourselves to think like Jesus thought. This isn't as easy as it sounds. It means that we must be willing to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. A submissive mind and spirit are absolutely necessary. James said in James 4:7, "Submit yourselves therefore to God." The word "submit" is a military word which means to get into the proper rank. Therefore, we must get into proper rank with God, much like a private would with a general.

In teaching the Philippians about humility, Paul gave them a couple of things to avoid: strife and vainglory. To avoid strife, they were to avoid factions, or a party spirit. They were discouraged from teaming up into little church groups in opposition to one another. This was one of the problems that the church at Corinth had. Some said they were with Apollos. Some said they were with Paul.

Still others said, "All of you are worldly following after men, we are with Christ." Of course, they were no better than the others. Paul said they had divisions among themselves, and they surely did. There was plenty of strife in the church at Corinth.

Paul also warned them about vainglory. This is an empty glory which exalts self rather than God. We can see why these things should be avoided if we are to be humble.

If we are to be humble, we must serve as Christ served—unselfishly. Others must be placed before self with the motive of glorifying God. The flesh will cry out against such actions, but God will help. We can't do it without Him.

### Humility Toward Others

Paul said in Philippians 2:3, ***KJV 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.***

This is not teaching that we should have poor self-image or self-esteem. Moral superiority is not in view at all because all are sinners and totally depraved. The lesson is that each of us should have consideration for the other over concern for self.

We are to be concerned for the interests of others according to Philippians 2:4.

***Philippians 2:4 KJV 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.***

We are not to look only to our own interests but also to the interests of others. God is not suggesting that we be busybodies, attending to everyone else's matters and affairs. Paul said in Romans 12:10,

***KJV 10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.***

Humility causes us to promote the other person and keep ourselves in the background.

Humility is to be shown even toward the lost world. We should see ourselves as debtors to all people everywhere. The debt that is owed is the Gospel. Take a look at what Paul said.

***Romans 1:14 KJV 14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.***

Being a debtor can certainly bring humility. Having a debt like this can be very humbling.

## God's Promises to the Humble

God appreciates a humble heart. Let us note what King David wrote in Psalm 51:7.

*Psalms 51:17 KJV 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

To show His appreciation, He blesses humble people. Several promises are given by Him. We will look at only one, happiness.

One of the promises give by God is that of happiness to the humble.

*Matthew 5:3 KJV 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Matthew 5:5 KJV 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

Remember the definition I gave earlier to “blessed?” It was “happy.” One reason truly humble saints are happy is that they have their happiness fixed in Jesus. James and Peter both wrote that God gives grace to the humble.

*James 4:6 KJV 6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*

*James 4:10 KJV 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

*1 Peter 5:5 KJV 5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

He places His undeserved favor upon them. They receive many blessings which they do not deserve. Jesus said in Luke 14:11, that the humble saints would one day be exalted.

*Luke 14:11 KJV 11 For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

It would seem that one of those times would be the day when the rewards are

passed out. God loves those who are humble.

### **Conclusion to Chapter One**

I said in the introduction that humility is an inward attitude. The problem with most people is that they need an attitude change. Are you sowing strife and vainglory? If so, you need to repent. You need true humility in order to be able to serve the Lord the way He would have you to.

## Chapter Two

### How To Be Joyful

Philippians 4:4 KJV *4 Rejoice in the Lord I: and again I say, Rejoice.*

#### Chapter Introduction

The words of our text sometimes seem impossible to achieve. Rejoice always? But God never gives commands that are unattainable. Regardless of the circumstances, each of us can be joyful. As we mature in Christ, we will see that this is true.

Mature Christian joy is not something that is “worked up to” by singing and testimonies or even preaching. It involves a constant peace and contentment that is present even in the “valley of the shadow of death.”

Joy is defined as a state of happiness or delight: bliss. It is an emotional and spiritual design that, in Christ, all is well. How sad indeed that many of God’s children never reach this stage of Christian maturity. They just never seem to grow. They never seem to get out of the “baby stage” where all they can process is the “milk of God’s Word.” They are constantly unhappy, always causing strife and trouble. The problem is this is the case of many of God’s churches today. They are filled with babies who have never grown up. The pastor, unless he makes a definitive attempt not to, becomes a “baby-sitter” instead of being able to equip the members for acceptable service for God. True, many pastors do not preach and teach the Word as they should, but there are many more who do. It is a two-way street. What the pastor, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, preaches and teaches has to be accepted by the members. If this is the case, that particular member who does not accept the truth of God’s Word, will never develop mature Christian joy.

#### The Basis of Mature Christian Joy

Of course, God is the basis for all Christian joy. It is in Him that we find salvation. King David wrote and sang a song about this in Psalm 35:9.

Psalms 35:9 KJV *9 And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation.*

Only in God is there rescue from the sure torments of hell and then the eternal condemnation in the lake of fire. David saw plenty of reasons to be

joyful in his salvation. David saw a definite relationship between joy and salvation. Upon losing his joy because of a backslidden condition, which resulted in great sorrow and dismay for him, he wrote this in his prayer recorded in Psalm 51:12:

***Psalms 51:12 KJV 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;  
and uphold me with thy free spirit.***

Thus, we see that apart from God and His free salvation, no one can be joyful. Many may seem to have joy, but if there is no salvation, there is no real joy. We cannot obtain joy separate from salvation, but keeping that joy rests on some other things also.

David pointed to some of these things in his request for the restoration of his joy, as recorded in Psalm 51. He indicated that the Christian must have the right view of God. He saw God as being loving and merciful. He further beheld Him as being forgiving. Certainly, there would be no cause of rejoicing in a God Who was not loving, merciful and forgiving, because these are all the things that are desperately needed by sinful men.

David also pointed out that we must have a right view of sin if we are to be joyful. All sin is against God. The person who seeks true joy cannot hold onto any “pet” sins because they will stand in the way of that fellowship which is so vital for rejoicing. The only way for sin to be deleted is through confession and repentance. True joy follows the forgiveness of sin which comes from repentance.

Furthermore, David realized that he must have a right view of himself. He saw himself as being guilty, in need of forgiveness. You will note that David did not pray to be saved again, only for the forgiveness of his sin that he had committed concerning Bathsheba. Any child of God who stubbornly holds onto his sins by refusing to admit that he has them will never be joyful.

God wants to give joy to all His children. Notice what James wrote in James 1:17.

***James 1:17 KJV 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.***

It is a fruit of the Spirit according to Galatians 5:22, and is available to all who will accept it His way.

***Galatians 5:22 KJV 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,....***

## God Wants Full Joy For His Children

The phrase, “full joy,” is used at least four times in the New Testament. It means that He wants complete joy for His own. A look at these four Scripture passages should convince us that God really intends for us to be happy.

On one occasion, Jesus taught His disciples by using a vineyard as an object lesson.

John 15:1-11 KJV *1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

He taught them their relationship to Him. After telling them that true believers are in Him, He told them to produce fruit, love and keep His commandments. He said in verse eleven, *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

Jesus emphasized that in order for joy to remain in them and be complete, there must be more than salvation; there had to be a life of fruitful service for Him. This proves that we are not saved for ourselves, but for God and His service.

At a later time, Jesus taught His church that complete joy was connected with prayer. That is found in John 16:24.

John 16:24 KJV *24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*

Saints who pray by faith and see their answered prayers experience a special joy. This joy comes from being assured that they are not alone with their needs in this world. It's no wonder so many saints are not rejoicing when we look at the neglect of prayer. I realize that it is so easy NOT to pray. In fact, Satan will do all he can to keep us from praying.

The apostle John wrote a letter about security of the believer in I John 5:13.

*1 John 5:13 KJV 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

He gave several ways that we can know we are saved. At the beginning of the letter John in chapter 1 verse 4, wrote, ***And these things write we unto you, THAT YOUR JOY BE FULL.*** We cannot possibly have full joy unless we are secure in our salvation.

Later, John wrote a second letter about still another thing with which full joy is associated in II John 12. KJV ***12 Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.***

It was something that a letter could not accomplish, face to face fellowship with other Christians. This is another important reason why faithful church attendance is so important. It provides times of regular fellowship with other saved people.

### Joyful Regardless of Circumstances

Joy that rests in the accomplishments, abilities and moods of the individual comes and goes as those things fluctuate. Mature Christian joy is “in the Lord.” This means that joy rooted in Him remains constant because He remains constant.

We rejoice “in the Lord,” earthly possessions play no part in it. Habakkuk said in Habakkuk 3:17-19, that even if all his crops failed and his herds did not reproduce, he would still rejoice in the Lord.

*Habakkuk 3:17-19 KJV 17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the*



*God of my salvation. 19 The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.*

Oh, that the modern saint would have the same joy! We should be able to lose everything we own and remain joyful.

Joy from God does not depend on our physical welfare. After having been beaten by the Jews, the apostles rejoiced, not because they like whipping, but because they had been counted worthy to suffer shame for Christ. Paul and Silas sang praises to God in the Philippian jail. Their backs were bleeding, and they certainly did not want to be in jail. This joy was possible because it was in the Lord rather than in their own circumstances.

*Acts 16:25-34 KJV 25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. 29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, 30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. 32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. 34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.*

Peter wrote to people who were under extreme persecution. He encouraged them in I Peter 1:8.

*1 Peter 1:8 KJV 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*

Thus, God teaches that Joy is not dependent on physical welfare. Mature

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