True Joy

 Level 4 Lesson 22

* **Introduction**

*Psa 48:2 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*

Mount Zion represents the Church of the New Testament. The Church is beautiful for situation, every situation. The Church is Joy!

* **Lesson**

We really don’t even know what true joy is. We can try to imagine, but Scripture lets us know that we cannot even comprehend the joy that is just ahead of us. When we get the Holy Ghost and get our sins washed away, we then receive just a taste of what is to come.

*1Jn 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*

It is the will of God that we be full of joy. His Word brings us joy. His salvation brings us joy.

*Rom 5:11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*

*Psa\_51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

When we find the wonderful salvation plan that God has for us, then we can walk in His plan and bear the fruit of His plan.

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

*Gal 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

You cannot have too much joy, but the joy that comes from this world is very shallow. It doesn’t last. When the Spirit of God is living in you, you will bear fruit. One of the fruits of the Spirit of God is Joy. That is not a joy that we can comprehend.

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*Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*

 *James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

*1Pe 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

If someone gave us a million dollars, would we be happy? Of course!!! Anyone would have joy over a gift like that but, what about when you have been mistreated? Or what about when you are broke? Or how is your joy meter when you are faced with the death of a loved one, heart problems, diabetes, or cancer? The joy of the Holy Ghost is not a worldly joy. It is a joy when there is no apparent reason to be joyful. When we truly trust in God, we can have joy in any situation. Now, that would be worth getting the Holy Ghost if that was the only benefit!

*Jud 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,*

Then, after we have endured the turmoil and sufferings of this world, when we get to heaven, we will enter into the joy of the Lord forever!!!

*Mat 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

The Holy Ghost is only a small sample of the inheritance that God has for us in the life hereafter.

*Eph 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.*

*Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel*

*of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that*

*holy Spirit of promise,*

*Eph 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the*

*purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

The only thing stopping you from having great joy is how much Holy Ghost you have. The more God, the more joy! Simple!!!

* **Activity**

Discuss the difference between joy and happiness.

(See Attachment)