

“So they read in the Book in the Law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha (Persian Deputy), and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, ‘This day is Holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep.’ For All The People Wept, When They Heard the Words of the Law.”
Nehemiah 8:8-9 KJV



Weeping over sin at the church altar used to be a common occurrence, but any more it has become the exception rather than the rule. Israel had been in captivity, Jerusalem was in ruins, and God’s Word had not been heard for decades when Ezra read the Book of the Law. Does the hearing of God’s Word bring tears to our eyes? Like the reading of an old love letter, reminding us of our first love? Does it stir your heart like the two disciples on the Emmaus Road? “And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know Him. And He said unto them, ‘What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?’ And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He Expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. And it came to pass, as He sat at meat with them, He Took bread, and Blessed it, and Brake, and Gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him; and He Vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, ‘Did not our heart burn within us, while He Talked with us by the way, and while He Opened to us the Scriptures?’” Does the Holy Spirit Expound God’s Word to you as you read it? Does your heart “burn within” you?

The weeping heart doth joy in Truth,
 It doth with eagerness pursue,
 The very God of righteousness,
 Forsaking all their sinfulness. –CGP

It is the humble who weep over sin, the mourner who appreciates Joy, and the wretched sinner who rejoices in Salvation! “He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” Does God’s Word make you both weep and rejoice? Jesus told a story:

“Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, ‘I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, ‘God be merciful to me a sinner.’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.” *Luke 18:10-14 KJV*