

"But unto the Son He saith, 'Thy Throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a Sceptre of Righteousness is the Sceptre of Thy Kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed Thee (Jesus) with the Oil of Gladness above thy fellows." Hebrews 1:8-9 KJV



We rejoice to know our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life! We exult over the Grace and Goodness of our Saviour! We marvel at the Long-suffering and Love of Father! We are kept and comforted by the Blessed Holy Spirit of God! *"Nehemiah...and Ezra...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 (God's Word), 'neither be ye sorry; for the JOY OF THE LORD is your strength."* We rejoice, yes, but the Joy is the Lord's. His Joy strengthens us as it becomes our joy by virtue of the indwelling Spirit, or the Voice of Truth speaking God's Word in our thoughts throughout the day. Do lovers joy in the other? Gladness pours over Jesus by virtue of His relationship with His beloved child. He is glad when His Love is requited by His beloved! Requited when we faithfully obey out of love and trust; when we *"present [our] bodies a living sacrifice;"* when a sinner repents and is reborn through faith in His proclaimed Word. *"Joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth. There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."* It's not the angels who rejoice, but God, Himself! He is glad when the saints gladly give His Word to a dying world *"for God so loved the world;"* when His children come Home to be with Him. *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."* When the gift of faith enables us to *"call upon the name of the Lord"* through faith in His Word, His abiding life-giving Spirit resurrects our dead spirits by indwelling us eternally with the gift of Life. Who is that Life? *"Jesus saith unto him, 'I am the Way, the Truth (God's Word), and the LIFE: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* The omnipresent Jehovah will not be present in a soul that has not invited His presence. We must willingly rejoin the *"Joy"* that was willingly abdicated in the Garden of Eden by our forefather, Adam. *"Whosoever will may come."* Whosoever will not, remains dead *"in trespasses and sin."* They choose separation from the Eternal Life that is freely given to any who desire and call for it. *"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* The *"Joy of the Lord is our strength"* simply by virtue of His presence; God's Word in thought. His gladness becomes our gladness when we *"let this mind (God's Word) be in [us] which was also in Christ Jesus.* The intoxicating joy of redeeming His beloved filled His desire! *"Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the JOY that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the Right Hand of the Throne of God."* When Jesus, *"the Word (made flesh) dwells in us richly,"* we have *"joy unspeakable and full of glory."* That joy is none other than the presence of the joyous Jesus. The greatest Joy in heaven will not be ours, but that of our Lord as He is finally united with His beloved, forever!

Oil of gladness anoints our Lord,
When sinners choose to trust His Word,
His presence in the faithful saint,
Will banish sorrow and complaint. ~CGP

Are you sorrowful and sad? Draw closer to God and His gladness through faith in and obedience to His Word.

"A double minded man is unstable in ALL his ways. – Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts (minds), ye double minded." James 1:8–4:8 KJV