

“Restore unto me the joy of Thy Salvation; and uphold me with Thy Free Spirit.” Psalms 51:12 KJV



Some of us can remember the sweet peace and freedom that engulfed us the moment we came to Jesus. Guilt rolled away like morning mists in the noonday sun! We reveled in the new knowledge that, not only were we forgiven, but we were a child of the KING! Remorse and sorrow turned to Joy and gladness. As we progressed in our newfound faith, there were newfound trials and conflicts that brought us heartache and sorrow. We began to function out of a sense of duty instead of love and a desire to please Christ. We forgot one or two meditations and then three or four which soon grew into a habit of not meditating at all on the Word of God. We then, seldom prayed and, though, still believing, we found it harder and harder to obey. We abandoned our first Love and lost our passion and Joy living in the slough of despond, because we forgot the desperation and fear that drove us to our knees in the first place! The Holy Spirit's still small Voice is lost to a cacophony of circumstance, doubt, and despair engineered by Satan to distract our focus from the face of Christ. We cannot expect to live long if we do not eat and we cannot hope to retain passion if we do not spend hours with the source of our Joy. Our original Joy was a result of knowing we had been forgiven and *“accepted in the Beloved. We [loved] Him, because He first loved us”* when there was nothing about us to love. *“But God commendeth His love toward us in that; while we were YET sinners, Christ DIED for us.”* It is not necessary to stay in a “prayer closet” to walk close to your Lord. Your soul and spirit are not restrained by your body. God is omnipresent. There is no place He is not! He walks where you walk. You either acknowledge His presence or you ignore Him. You will learn that it doesn't matter with what or who you have to deal. We bond with what occupies our time, be it evil or good. We must control what occupies our thoughts and affections by what we allow to occupy our time. If we operate our lives according to how we feel instead of what is right we will surely fail! Faith must follow Truth not feelings. Our carnal lusts will resist the good and drag our soul into temptation and sin when we allow it. Our only defence is the Word of God *“dwelling in us richly.”* You can have the Joy of the Lord unceasingly by staying in the Word of God through thought and meditation. It is our deliverance not our duty. The *“Sword of the Spirit”* defends you: Not you it!

The Joy of Light when first it dawned,
And with its beauty life was crowned,
Though dimmed somewhat with passing time,
Can shine anew with help Divine. ~CGP

Love is dulled by the drudgery of living if we do not endeavor to constantly study and visit anew the object of our love. Remember when you were courting? Your thoughts were occupied with your love even when you were apart; thinking of past encounters or imagining new. Absence only makes the heart grow fonder if the heart stays focused on the object of love. When two burning coals are forced apart, the fire dies. Divine affection requires the glue of constant relationship!

“Order my steps in Thy Word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep Thy Precepts. Make Thy Face to shine upon Thy servant; and teach me Thy Statutes. Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not Thy Law.” Psalms 119:133-136 KJV