

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

Satan constantly tries to mar and destroy believers' liberty in Christ – freedom from the guilt and penalty of sin which is our *"joy unspeakable and full of glory."* Life's frustrations quickly replace joy in Christ as Satan interjects thoughts like, "Nothing's changed!" - "Get back to reality!" - "Life goes on!" and etc., denying the supreme "reality" of spiritual freedom; of liberation from eternal bondage! Binding us again with the fetters of our own works, softly lined with "family love, moral duty, and good deeds," but no matter how soft, a fetter is still a fetter! *"Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us."* The mercy and forgiveness you found with Christ remains in full effect forever! *"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, (including you, yourself) shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Our first duty is to love God! Jesus said, *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."* I already hear some stuttering, "But...but God is infinite love!" However, there is also His infinite wrath, His infinite judgment, His infinite wisdom, His infinite power, and His infinite righteousness. "Love" no more fully defines God than "yellow" fully defines bananas or "wet" fully defines water! If your love of God doesn't eclipse all others, you don't love God! Does a man suddenly hate his family because of a new bride? Does a mother suddenly hate her other children because of a newborn? Did God hate His only Son because He allowed His death? God declared from heaven, *"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased!"* Believers are IN the world, but are *"not OF the world."* Satan distracts with the transient chaos of temporal so we lose our focus of the absolute of eternal! *"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."* How do you look at *"things which are not seen?"* The way you LOOK at Christmas presents before you get them. You may even know what you're getting, because you trust the giver, but you can't SEE them yet. What we see is temporal; what we can't see is eternal. *"The joy of the LORD is your strength."* Lose your joy, lose your strength, and drown in the temporal!



Restore to me your Joy, O Lord,  
O let me not forsake your Word;  
O let me clearly see Thy Face,  
Upheld by your amazing Grace! ~CGP

Focus on the Word of *"God which cannot lie,"* and SEE what's already yours and still to come! Life's shadows confirm His Light, for without Light there can be no shadow! *"The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want!"*

*"For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 KJV*