

THE JOY OF "SEEING" JESUS AND PRAYING IN HIS NAME John 16:16-33

I. WE "SEE" JESUS AND WE WILL SEE JESUS (vss. 16-22)

"A little while, and you will not see me; and again a little while, and you will see me because I go to the Father."

THREE LEVELS OF APPLICATION

1. The disciples – the cross was imminent – the grave – the resurrection.
2. Post-resurrection appearances – to the disciples – over 500 witnesses! But then after 40 days of teaching, He ascended. He commanded them to wait for the promise of the Father – the Helper who was to come, and the Holy Spirit did come. The disciples recognized this spirit to be God's Holy Spirit, and was the same as Jesus' presence but Spirit form. In other words, they rejoiced because He was back with them in this way. They could again in a sense "see" Him.
3. We (if we have the Holy Spirit) . . . we can also "see" Jesus today.
 - A spiritual sight
 - Through His Word
 - Through the manifestation of His Presence: the Holy Spirit living within us

Their sorrow and lament (like that of a woman in labor) was turned into joy. And when they saw Jesus, their hearts would rejoice. And NO ONE would take their joy from them.

Note that it is the intent of God Himself that we do have great joy! Not worldly happiness, but "Jesus joy" amidst whatever circumstances!

What can rob us of our joy in Christ? NO OTHER PERSON CAN, BUT SADLY WE CAN ROB OURSELVES OF JOY!

- Our wrong responses to difficult circumstances.
- Worldly influences and priorities that have not been dealt with. You just keep playing with that stuff. You thought you could handle it; but it has soured your spirit, blocked the flow of the Holy Spirit, and "robbed you" of your joy in Christ.
- Overt sin – stuff you know is wrong, but you just do not want anyone messing with you!
- Bitterness.
- Depression – lack of taking responsibility for your life, and lack of obedience; quitting on God and yourself (the person whom God called).
- Spiritual lethargy – limiting your Christian life to "sit and soak" mentality; no serving others in Christian love; very little Great

Commission motivation. This is just a hidden sin no one talks about. We sweep this under the rug and then wonder why we have no joy!

- Spiritual pride – I’m okay; everyone else is not okay. Just look at them – they don’t believe exactly right or they have this issue or that problem; it is always something. You just can’t seem to accept anyone as they are and love them and try to invest in them. No one is good enough! That will rob you of your joy.

Jesus says here to His disciples: I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

Jesus’ expectation is that our joy will come from seeing Him. Therefore, I ask each of you today: have you seen Jesus today? Do you see Him now?

Oh, Lord God, would You break us, cleanse us, and renew our spiritual sight so we can see You afresh today? Do it Lord – please – today.

II. WHEN WE ARE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS, WE WANT TO PRAY PRAYERS OF FAITH IN HIS NAME

1. To pray in Jesus’ name means to come to God as one who is identified with Jesus by faith, that is, to come as a saved person.
2. Praying in the name of Jesus means praying on the basis of His merit—not on the basis of any merit of our own.
3. Praying in the name of Jesus means praying **IN LINE WITH CHRIST’S CHARACTER AND OBJECTIVES**, that is, praying as He would under identical circumstances.
Ray Stedman writes: “To ask in anyone’s name means to ask as though you were that person. This means we are to ask for what Jesus would want, what He is after, and not for our own desires.”

III. AS WE PRAY (ASK) IN JESUS’ NAME, GOD WILL GIVE US JOY AND INCREASED INSIGHT

IV. JUST AS THE DISCIPLES BELIEVED JESUS CAME FORTH FROM GOD (HENCE HE IS GOD), WE TOO WILL GROW IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOSPEL (vss. 27, 30)

V. IN THE FACE OF INCREASING PERSECUTION OF GENUINE CHRISTIANS, WE CAN HAVE HOPE BECAUSE JESUS HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD

Just as Jesus led His disciples, He leads us today through the Word and the Holy Spirit. We know who Jesus is – GOD! We can pray in His name believing; and if we pray according to His will, we can pray with confidence in Him. We can grow in Gospel knowledge and awareness because we can see Him through the spiritual sight He gives every believer. We don’t want to let our own attitude spoil the joy of being in fellowship with Him.

You can turn away from self and sin; and receive Christ today. Come as we sing, and tell one of our altar counselors you want to receive Christ!