



MESSAGE NOTES

JOY IN OBEDIENCE ONTO SUFFERING

Isaiah 55:1-2, Hebrews 10: 32-36

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Joy in suffering

The Bible makes it quite clear on a number of occasions that for us joy and suffering are not opposite words. We can rejoice in and through all of our sufferings because our joy doesn't depend on our circumstances it depends only on God.

2 Corinthians 6 9-10: As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

Although suffering externally, deep-down we can be full of joy because our joy is based on who God is, what God has done for us and what He has planned for us. No matter what you're going through in life these three things don't change; God is still good, He still has done great things for us and He still has wonderful things planned for us.

Joy that chooses suffering

When we realise this and are then able to rejoice in all circumstances the next step is actually choosing to suffer in obedience to God.

Hebrews 10: 33-34 you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property.

Just like the early church we should joyfully identify ourselves with Jesus and joyfully accept the consequences of this.

Seeing Jesus as most valuable

We must see Jesus as more precious, more valuable and more satisfying than anything else in this world. Our complete peace, joy and satisfaction all rests on Jesus.

Matthew 13:44 The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Jesus is our treasure, we've found Jesus! And now in our joy we sacrifice anything and everything to follow Him.