

Experiencing the Joy of Our Salvation

Psalm 95:1–2 (NKJV)

¹Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

²Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

- *Our salvation should be the source of our greatest gladness and unquenchable joy!*

Isaiah 51:11 (HCSB)

¹¹And the redeemed of the LORD will return and come to Zion with singing, crowned with unending joy. Joy and gladness will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee.

Isaiah 51:11 (KJV)

¹¹Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, And come with singing unto Zion; And everlasting joy shall be upon their head: They shall obtain gladness and joy; And sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

Hebrews 2:3 (NKJV)

³how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

- *“how shall we escape” – What excuse can we give if we do not fully participate in the wonderful salvation that God has provided for us through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ?*
- *“if we neglect so great a salvation” – Many times Christians can neglect, take for granted, or disregard this “so great a salvation” that we have received through Jesus Christ, because we fail to fully grasp how vast, comprehensive, and wonderful salvation truly is.*
- *Neglecting this so great a salvation that Jesus purchased for us is like inviting someone to the most marvelous and extensive buffet imaginable. When they come to the table they choose only a few items, but neglect to fill their plate to overflowing with all the bounty that the buffet table offers.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶Rejoice always,

- *If we are not overflowing with unceasing joy it means there are still many things we have yet to partake of on the banqueting table that God has set before us.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV)

²³Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- *Christ’s provision of salvation is so extensive that it includes all three aspects of our being: spirit, soul, and body which correspond to the three aspects of our salvation—justification, sanctification, and glorification.*
- *Justification – Freedom from the Penalty of Sin – Eternal Damnation.*
- *This first aspect of salvation is justification which deals with our spirit.*

Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

- *“saved through faith, and that not of yourselves” — Justification is based solely on faith in Christ and not on works or performance.*
- *“have been saved” — This verb is in the past perfect tense which means it is a one-time action that took place in the past and was completed in the past.*
- *“it is the gift of God” — Justification and eternal life are described as a gift. All one must do to be saved is to accept the gift.*

1 Peter 1:23 (NKJV)

²³having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- *If we are in Christ, Christ's spirit and our spirit have been joined together, and we are a new creation. In our spirit we have not been renovated, but something totally new has been created. We have a new identity in Christ!*

1 Corinthians 6:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

- *In our reborn spirit we have been perfectly united with Jesus Christ. Our reborn spirit is perfect, just like Jesus' spirit.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- *“that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” The moment we are born again our reborn spirit is not only righteous but is righteous with the very righteousness of God Himself! And that is something to be joyful and shout about!!!*

1 John 3:9 (NKJV)

⁹Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

- *There is one part of us that is absolutely sinless—our spirit! Even on our worst day we are His beloved child and He is there to accept us and to receive us.*

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV)

⁹For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 2:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

¹⁵and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

- *Sanctification: Freedom from the Power of Sin*
- *This second aspect of our salvation deals with our soul.*

Philippians 2:12–13 (NKJV)

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

¹³for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- “work out your salvation with fear and trembling” – *These verses clearly speak about the sanctification process and the work that we must engage in to see our souls set free from power of sin.*
- “for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure” - *The wonderful news is that we are not doing this work alone and it is actually God who is at work in us to accomplish the transformation of our souls—with our cooperation.*

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 Peter 1:7–9 (NKJV)

⁷that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

⁸whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

⁹receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

- “receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls” – *The various tests and fiery trials we may experience in our lives have one ultimate goal, to bring our faith to fulfillment resulting in the salvation of our souls – sanctification – our souls being set free from the power and control of sin.*
- *Trials are not meant to define us, but refine us. When we pass our tests, the genuineness of our faith provides living proof of our faith and we bring “praise, honour and glory to God.” We also provide a powerful witness and encouragement to other believers who may be facing the same test.*

Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

²⁹For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- *The end result of the sanctification process is that our souls are to be conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ just as our reborn spirits are already perfect. What abounding joy that God intends to conform us to be just like Jesus!*

Hebrews 6:12 (NKJV)

¹²that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

- *Through faith and patience we inherit the promises.*

Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

¹It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

- *There is great joy knowing that Jesus is here to walk us through the process to complete freedom.*
- *Through sanctification Jesus wants to give us freedom in every area of our lives so we are no longer bound by tormenting memories of our past failures, destructive habits that try to control us, or tormenting thoughts that steal our peace of mind.*

Hebrews 13:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

⁶So we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

- *What a great joy to know that Jesus is always with us and if we allow Him, He will lead us in every aspect of our lives. He not only knows the future but He is the One who is in control of the future!*

1 Peter 5:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- *Glorification: Freedom from the Presence of Sin.*
- *This third aspect of our salvation deals with our bodies.*

Romans 13:11 (NKJV)

¹¹And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

- *We look forward with great joy and expectation to receiving our resurrected bodies!*

1 Corinthians 15:51–58 (NKJV)

⁵¹Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—
⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

- *All the sinful fleshly impulses that try to tempt and torment us originate in these carnal corruptible mortal bodies. At our resurrection all that will be gone when we receive our incorruptible immortal resurrected bodies! This is joyful news!*

⁵⁴So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

- *Aging, sickness, and death will no longer effect us because these things can only affect our mortal corruptible bodies.*

⁵⁵“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

- *As we look forward not to our death but to our resurrection and receiving our immortal incorruptible bodies it should produce a joy and expectation that will empower us to live steadfast victorious lives even in the face of adversity.*

Revelation 21:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”

- *In eternity all the past sorrows, pains, losses, and regrets will be wiped away because He makes all things new!!!!*
- *Each day as we ponder the revelation of our full salvation of justification, sanctification, and glorification, exuberant joy should spring from our hearts and mouths.*

Revelation 2:2–5 (NKJV)

²“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

³and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary.

⁴Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

- *Our service to Jesus should be punctuated with joy and the same love for Him we experienced when we first received salvation. We are not to serve God out of obligation or compulsion but out of a joyful heart filled with love for Him because He first loved us!*

Revelation 3:14–22 (NKJV)

¹⁴“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

¹⁵“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

¹⁶So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

¹⁷Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

¹⁸I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

¹⁹As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

²⁰Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

²¹To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

²²“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ ’

- *To understand the rebuke and the warning to the Laodicean church we must understand the context. Jesus is not speaking about salvation but about fellowship.*

Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!