

Family TableTalk

Conversation 28

Pandemic Joy

read

Psalm 119:105-112

think

Our current Coronavirus pandemic has made the days blur into weeks, and the weeks into months. Who would have thought that this would happen? Living in a world similar to the movie “Groundhog Day” can rob us of the joy that should be in our hearts as followers of Jesus, joy we should have regardless of the day or our circumstances.

In Psalm 119:111 we read that God’s “testimonies” are “the joy” of the writer’s heart. The English dictionary tells us that *joy* is a feeling of happiness that comes from success, good fortune, or a sense of well-being. According to that definition, recent days have not been a time for joy. But when joy is mentioned in the Bible, it is about *knowing* rather than *feeling*. It is a sense of contentment that comes from knowing with assurance in our heads and our hearts that what God has done, is doing, and will do is under his control. And even in spite of the uncertainty of our present circumstances, we can rejoice and be glad that God is working out his plan which will end with his deliverance!

How can we have this joy? It begins by entering into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and then seeking to build that relationship on a daily basis – through both good times *and* difficult pandemics – by spending time in his Word and listening to his “testimonies” to gain a knowledge of our “heritage” of his faithfulness.

Even though each day of the pandemic seems the same, in God’s calendar we are moving to something greater than what we have right now on this side of Heaven: it’s an inheritance that will never perish. Meditating on that reality will bring unspeakable joy to your heart.

apply

- Describe a time when you were filled with great joy as *joy* is defined in the English dictionary.
- Have you ever had a time when you were filled with great joy as *joy* is defined biblically? Describe it.
- In I Peter 5:8 we read that Satan, our enemy, prowls around “seeking someone to devour.” What are some strategies and tactics Satan uses to steal and devour our joy? What weapons has God given us to fight back?

pray

Lord, give us joy as we journey through this pandemic. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to understand your amazing grace that is given to us every day. Help us to know the joy that comes with knowing that you are in control, using our present circumstances to chisel us into your image, both now and for eternity. Amen.

by Lisa Mueller

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