

Pastor's Ramblings for August 2005

Everywhere I speak and everywhere I go, I am asked the question...is joy possible in this life? The answer, of course, is a resounding yes; however, you know me, I must take a moment to qualify, certainly for the Christian who has a higher responsibility and higher calling than the rest of the world. **Plainly put, the Christian's joy is only found when he or she is serving and pursuing the Lord** and all I want for you as a member of the Kingdom is peace and joy in this glorious journey. I pray for you a fullness of life that is ours for the claiming. This note is about the how and the wake up call we all so much need. So, hear my heart...Attention! For the "Christ's One" (Christian) who is on the sidelines, joy and peace will never be full...it can't be! We are called and made (created and made new) to pursue the call of Christ in our lives. The singularly most important task for me as a "Christ One" is to be sufficiently sensitive to my Heavenly Father so that I might recognize the work that from all of eternity He has ordained for me to do! (Eph 1:8-10) God has ordained and destined each of us a work of ministry and a calling to do good works and deeds of obedience for Him. This includes prayer, study in His word, tithing, stewardship in matters of service to the church, acts of intentional kindnesses done for others in His name, and on it goes. These acts of obedience are the very vehicles Christ uses to bring us to us His joy. When we sit on the sidelines, or allow so much else to take priority, and do not "consciously" pursue growth in our Spirits, we atrophy, we die, we are depressed, and fatigue with life sets in! Do you find yourself more and more unable to fill that nagging emptiness, that lack of purpose, or that feeling of despair that is just there! Let me share with conviction that this is the Lord trying to get your attention...and trust me He will. You are His and He does let go and will not give up on His children. I hope and pray that you will ask for and seek Him to be first in your lives. **All the rest of the stories of your life are minor stories, all being played out as empty addictions trying to fill the void that Christ came only to fill;** i.e., money, vacations, "time to rest on weekends", exercise, or whatever we dream and hope gives us purpose. All of these lesser stories are normal responses to stress and good in themselves, but are they the essence of our prayer...Lord ignite my passion for you so that my life will be filled with peace, joy, purpose, and that I might be found worthy of the call and hear from you on that great judgment day...well done my good and faithful servant!

Help us, your church and your staff, to ignite your spiritual energies, to make of you disciples and servants of Christ, to become aware of your gifts, to answer your ministry calling, and to thus grow a new testament church in this place ...in this time...ready and prepared to tell the good news of Jesus Christ! Join us for Sunday school, a mid-week Bible study, a course of study offered with just you in mind, or join us in choir or to help out in one of the many ministries of helps in this church. Let us attack life; dull as it can become, empty and purposeless, with the full measure of our gift of grace! We can only hear from God and be motivated by God within the context of His Word, His church, His Son, and His spirit-filled and anointed life! Decide to join us this new year...join us in Sunday school, worship, and in the work of the family! We need you, we need each other, and yes...then Joy will come in the morning...morning after morning after morning...Amen and Amen!

Pastor Bob...Shalom and Selah! (Join me on the radio 106.9 FM, Tues and Thurs. at 12:30 Bye!)