

Joy and Time

In the wonderful world we call America, we have been physically blessed beyond all people before us. Modern medicine has relieved more suffering than ever before. Modern production methods have delivered to us luxuries and amenities unknown to the kings of history. Trains, planes and automobiles transcend time as we flit to and fro in minutes across the miles that used to take months to travel.

However, not all days are filled with pleasure. This is earth and not heaven. Tough times come and seem to overstay their welcome. Challenges knock on life's door, then enter unbidden. We are tempted to wonder, "When will joy come home to live in the depths of our hearts?"

God helps us through the difficult times. He is still close, still present and His word is still there, alive, living, more than ink on a page, it is peace between leather covers. His word is a "lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105). And from that "light" we see more clearly that, "Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning," (Psalm 30:5).

We see Jesus, Who "for the joy set before Him, endured the cross," (Hebrews 12:2). When your heart is at low tide, Jesus is still with you (Matthew 29:20). When you wonder whether life itself is worth the effort, remember Jesus' words in John 15:11, "These things I have spoken to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full," (John 15:11). When tough times come, remember this wonderful pronouncement Jesus made after the cross, after His resurrection - Jesus appeared to the disciples and said, "Peace be with you," (John 20:26).

Life got you down? Jesus is close. Does it seem that the night is just too dark and too long? Remember, "Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning."

I think I can see first light in the east. It won't be long till the day dawns. ***"But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings," Malachi 4:2.***

Ray Wallace