



THE PROCLAIMER

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Joy is a force of the spirit; you can choose to walk in joy or you can allow the enemy to rob that joy and make you full of dread, misery, fear, anxiety and defeat. We can choose which way we live, in victory or defeat. God's Word brings life and joy, while the world brings all the joy robbers and steals the life right out of us.

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Giving Thanks

The day of Thanksgiving has gone and Christmas follows closely. It seems at this time of year many people become big-hearted that are ordinarily selfish. How can we ever be selfish as Christians when we look at all that the Lord has done for us? If we took paper and pencil and were required to list all the things God has done for us, it would take a long time to do and we would still forget some of the wonderful things He's done.

Many times it's easier to complain than to take the time to give thanks and count our blessings. Just a simple thing of saying our blessing when we eat meals is too much for a lot of people, especially if they are in a

crowded restaurant or with friends or co-workers who don't do that. Are we ashamed to give thanks openly or has it just become a ritual that we do when it's convenient.

Our little three year old granddaughter, Breanna, refuses to eat unless we say the blessing when we eat. Not only does she repeat out loud what you are saying, but she wants everyone to hold hands.

It is not possible to be private about it and she certainly isn't ashamed to give God thanks. We could all take a lesson from an innocent child when it comes to thanking the Lord for His many blessings in our lives. What a testimony to those



As a family, let us give the Lord the thanks that is due Him for all His goodness in our lives, today and every day.

around us when we give God the glory and praise for His goodness. Who knows what impact it may have on others when they see you praying publicly without shame. As we gather with friends and family this holiday season let us first give thanks to God.

Do You Feel Joy or Dread?

As the Christmas season approaches, things really seem to get hectic. There's lots of shopping to do; cooking and baking that are more than usual. Then there is the entertaining friends and family, and that requires extra cleaning to be done. This seems to be when all the extra bills like house insurance and car

insurance always fall due, so a shortage of extra money is another problem. All these problems seem to arise to rob you of your faith, joy and peace. We get anxious when things aren't the way we think they should be. Anxiety breeds tension and tension steals or drains us of joy. Your faith becomes

weakened and then you become vulnerable to the enemy.

Our spirit man is brought down to a low level and if the enemy can rob your joy then he can openly attack you and rob you of health, finances, and the peace in your heart.

The Joy of The Lord is Our Strength.



Here, I was ministering on the Joy of the Lord at a campground near Aurora, N.C. It was a special time of fellowship and giving thanks to the Lord.

The joy of the Lord acts as a shield against the enemy when we are walking, talking, and living in joy. You can be so tired and weary from a long day, but if you will put on some praise music and begin to sing and maybe tap your foot, you will forget all about how tired you are. The old devil tries to drop hints into our minds all the time about how exhausted we are and how we just can't do another thing,

especially anything that pertains to God or His word. But the minute you begin to praise the Lord, the devil can't get through to you because when you sing you can't hear his lies anymore.

We are a spirit; we have a soul and we live in a body. The spirit man is suppose to control the flesh man. But many Christians let their flesh control their whole body. The spirit man should

control our thought life and our actions. We should think on the things of the Lord and then we trust Him and His Word, and when tough things come our way His joy and peace will just rise out of us because we believe His Word more than our circumstances. The joy of the Lord sets you above the situations. You're an overcomer in this life. The joy of the Lord is our strength. (Neh. 8:10)

Joy Brings Blessings to Our Lives



He shields us from evil and blesses us when we walk in the joy of the Lord.

Psalm 89:15-18 says, "Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound; they shall walk, O Lord in the light of thy countenance.

In thy name shall they rejoice all the day, and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.

For thou art the glory of thy strength; and in thy favor

our horn shall be exalted.

For the Lord is our defense, and the Holy One of Israel is our king."

This tells us that there is favor when we walk in joy.

The word also says that He defends us and blesses us and shields us from evil when joy is in our lives. If

we want more blessings and want the Lord to shield us from evil then we must walk in the joy of the Lord. That is what the Word means about it is our strength. Without strength, we are weak and open for anything that comes along, but with God's joy upon us, His shield of protection is upon us also.



A mural done by Hutch at Lakewood Campground, Myrtle Beach, S.C. , showing Jesus praying in the garden.

More of Jesus Brings More Joy

The more time we spend with the Lord and feasting on the Word the more joy we will walk in. When you are full of the Word of God then your joy in the Lord is full. Psalm 16:11 says, "in Your presence is fullness of joy." We will be full of Jesus and full of His joy when we spend that time with Him that is so necessary in today's

world.

Psalm 68:1-4 speaks of letting God arise within us and the enemy is scattered. It also says to rejoice and sing praises to God. If we will spend time with the Lord and His Word, then we will walk in a joy that most people have never experienced or understand. Some may

think you a little strange when you walk around with a smile on your face and a little pep in your step, but when you are having a relationship with the Lord and you are walking in a joy unspeakable and full of glory, what people say or think doesn't seem to matter anymore. The things of this earth grow strangely dim.

Watch the Words of Your Mouth

The words of our mouth are powerful things. God created the world we live in with words and we create the world we live in by the words we speak daily. It's really hard to give thanks and be negative at the same time. That's why we should continually be in an attitude of thanks and gratitude to the Lord for all the wonderful things He does in our lives daily.

In Proverbs 8:6 it says,

“Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. 7- For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. 8. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. There should be no perverse or negative, degrading thing that comes out of our mouths. Whatever we speak against another will eventually come back to us.

We must always speak words of faith and encouragement to others if we expect the same to come back to us. If we knew for sure what we spoke would always come to pass then we would really watch what we speak. Well, guess what? They do come to pass! Let this be our prayer-Psalm 19:14: “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, My strength and my redeemer.



We must watch the words of our mouth , even when on the phone.

Covenant Provisions of Blessings

We have a covenant right to the blessings of God. We should expect them if we are a tither and we are walking in obedience to God's word. Psalm 112:1 says “Blessed is the man that fears (reverences) the Lord, that delighteth in His commandments.. His seed shall be mighty upon the earth; the generation of the upright

shall be blessed.” Then in verse seven I like what it says. “He shall not be afraid of evil tidings ; his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. If our heart is fixed on the Word of God, then our conversations will be upright and positive, trusting in the Lord to bring to pass just exactly what the Word says.. When we trust someone and

their word, then it makes it easier to have hope and confidence in what they say. We can trust in God's Word to be true and know He will bring it to pass. God has provided through His covenant with us every spiritual blessing we will ever need. Psalm 118:14: “The Lord is my strength and song and is become my salvation”



We can trust in God's Word to be true and know He will bring it to pass.

Trust Him and Keep Joy

Psalm 68 1-4 says that as God arises in us our enemies are scattered. Then if that is true we have no excuses to ever get out of joy. Joy is like a spontaneous combustion. When bad things come, something in us should go off like an explosion and we should rise us and say, “no,

I'll not receive or believe that bad report, for I'm the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I'm an overcomer. His joy is my strength and I'm above and not beneath the circumstances. I'm going over and Satan, you won't pull me under and steal my joy. I will trust in

the Lord with all my heart and lean not to my own understanding, but in all my ways I will acknowledge Him and He will direct my path”.

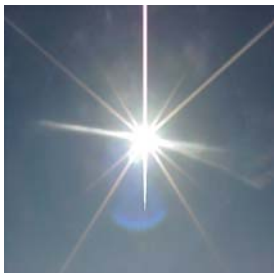
Just stand back, trust the Lord and His Word and watch God move in your behalf.



Joy is like a spontaneous combustion. It should go off when we encounter negative things contrary to what God's Word says.

A Story of True Thanks to God

*There is no way that
your daughter should
be alive, let alone
only have a few
scratches.*



Words cannot explain the miraculous glory that comes from our Heavenly Father through prayer. The natural sun is not even a spark to the real Glory of God and His miracles!

My daughter, Kathleen, was 15... too young to seriously date but she had a boyfriend. One evening, when I was leaving to pick up my son, Paul, from baseball practice, she asked if she could just go with her boyfriend to pick up his little brother at a friend's house. She said they would come right back. I said, "All right, just make sure you wear your seat belt, and come right home,"

It was my father's birthday and my youngest daughter, Therese, was already at my father's house waiting for us to come over with the cake I had yet to pick up at the store. I left to pick Paul up at school, but decided to take the highway, rather than the shortcut along the back roads. After leaving the school, Paul and I ran in the store for the cake and some last minute goodies. As we were getting into the car, we heard and saw paramedics, fire trucks, three ambulances and of course a multitude of police cars. I got a sick feeling in my stomach and said to Paul, "Somebody needs our prayers, quick." I wondered if there was a fire or a bad car accident. At one of the intersections I had to stop to let more emergency vehicles through, and prayed, "Lord, those people need you right now, go to them and place your protective hand over

them."

We stopped at my parents to drop off the food, before going home to pick up Kathleen, but my father met me at the car and told us to postpone the party because Therese had fallen asleep. "Which way did you go to the school?" he asked, "Because there was a bad accident on the back road, I heard someone was killed. It happened just about the time you had to pick up Paul at the school and I know you always go that way. I was so happy to see you pull in, I had a gut feeling it was you."

As Paul and I drove the short distance home, I could see our house was dark and when Kathleen is home alone, she always burned every light. As I turned off the ignition, tears fell, "It was Kathleen," I told Paul, "I know it," I ran in the house and checked our answering machine, no one had called. I breathed a sigh of relief, thinking that someone would have called by now. "Paranoid," that's what Kathleen always called me, and that's what I was telling myself, "Your just paranoid!" Then, the phone rang. It was her friend's mother, who worked in the emergency room of our local hospital. She only told me that the three of them were in an accident and were being

transported to the hospital. I didn't call my husband at work, nor my parents. Paul and I just left for the hospital. As I pulled into the parking lot, one of the paramedics, someone we have known for years, met us at our car. "I'm sorry, I'm so sorry," he said with tears streaming down his face. The next thing I remember after that I was talking to the doctor in the hallway of the ER. He asked me if I believed in God, and with that my knees gave way. "No," he said, "you don't understand, do you believe in divine intervention?" I stammered, a weak, "Yes." Not having a clue what he was talking about. He smiled at me and asked, "Do you know what shirt your daughter is wearing, tonight?" Nodding no, he told me to go down the hall and look. "Your daughter is blessed with angels and so are you. From what the emergency personnel told me, there is no way that your daughter should be alive, let alone only have a few scratches,"

Kathleen was laying on a cart, waiting for more x-rays. When I got to her, we both sobbed. As I was hugging her I had the urge to check her shirt, unzipping her jacket. I read the words, "Jesus Saves." I knew then, what the doctor had meant. All three were treated and released. On the way home that night Kathleen told this story:

"It was really weird, about a quarter of a mile before the accident, I said, 'Wait, we forgot to put our seat belts on, my Mother will kill me. Then a car was coming towards us in our lane, he swerved, and I knew we got hit on the passenger side of the car, where I was sitting. We got hit a total of three times because the car kept spinning in a circle. I felt his little brother's hand on my shoulder, holding me tightly in place. 'But Mom, after it was all over, I could still feel the hand on my shoulder. I looked and his little

brother had flown out the back window of the car, as we later found out, on the first spin. "It was an angel, Mom, I know it!" I knew it too, especially when we went the next day to look at the car, it had been split in half, right underneath my daughter's seat. The driver of the other car, witnesses said, was traveling 90-95 miles per hour and the point of impact at that speed was directly at Kathleen's door. The police report stated that the car door was found fifty feet away from the accident scene, with the seat belt attached.

So when the door broke loose, "the hand" was the only thing that saved my daughter's life. The Lord, knew, long before I did that my child was in trouble, and I will always praise Him for saving her life and restoring mine. I have been meaning to write this story for the past couple years. Kathleen just turned 21. While I was writing this I smiled and cried, but it's all true.



God's word says He gives His angels charge over us.

Charlie's Corner "God Always Keeps His Word"

God has been so good to us over the years and there is no way to ever thank Him for them all. He doesn't expect us to remember each one.

The main thing that the Lord wants us to do is just take Him at His word! Just obey His word in our daily lives and live it in our words and our actions.

It's easy to talk about being thankful and about blessing others, but it's another story when it actually comes to doing it. That's a real problem in this day's world. Few peo-

ple are as good as their word, but God is! Whatever He has said, we can count on it to be true and know that we can trust every word that is written in the Bible.

So many people have a hard time trusting God because they've had a hard time trusting other people in their lives as they have grown up. Natural fathers, especially can really do damage to children when they don't keep their word. If we can't trust a natural father whom we can see, how can we

trust a Heavenly Father whom we can't see.

We need to be mindful of promises we make to our children and others. Our word should be our bond. If we say it then others can expect us to follow through.

I'm so thankful that we can trust God at His word and know if He promises us in His word then it will come to pass. Begin to watch the words of your mouth and ask the Lord to help you to not make idle promises you can't keep.



There's so much to give God thanks for that our minds could never remember them all.

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What Would Jesus Do?

In the busy season before Christmas, many of us will be in the crowds in the stores getting last minute shopping done. The traffic is usually very hectic and the lines are long in the stores. Either can really play on one's patience. But if we will allow the Holy Spirit to direct us as we leave home each time, we can be a witness instead of a whiner! Most of the people become

agitated, angry and very impatient as Christmas approaches. Should we be one of those or an exception to the rule. All we have to do in every situation we encounter is ask ourself, "What would Jesus do"? If we do this we will be more tolerant of the next person; have more patience as we wait in line and bless the one who pulls in front of us on the road. We

should be an example of the love of Jesus in every thing we do. What is the season all about? It's about God's love for us that Jesus was born in a lowly manger, not a nice hotel room or hospital. This should be our example. Not everything is always the way we want it but God may place us in a place to be His witness of love to one who needs it?



When stores are crowded and things are hectic. Let's ask ourselves, what would Jesus do now?