

PEACE & JOY IN THE HOLY GHOST

Be Careful For Nothing, Rejoice Always

I. **The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost-Rm14:17-**
*The kingdom [rule, realm, territory subject to him], of God is not meat and drink; but **righteousness** [right in character, justification], and **peace** [prosperity, quiet, rest, tranquil], and **joy** [cheerfulness, calm delight, gladness] in the Holy Ghost-**ICB**-In the kingdom of God, Eating and drinking are not important. The important things are living right with God, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit-NIRV-God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy*

A. There are things that the Kingdom is and that it is not, things it's about and things it's not about-Be cautious about making the Kingdom something it's not, overemphasizing things that are not important to God, and under emphasizing things that are important to God

1. They're Christians who love God and they did this-They believed they were right in emphasizing this, yet they sacrificed what actually was important in the name of something that wasn't

2. The devil loves to deceive and distract-Get you thinking something is important that isn't and get you distracted with it-Humility, sticking close to The Word, being correctable protects you

B. Where God reigns it's about righteousness, peace, joy-These are important-Rm14:17-VO-When God reigns, the order of the day is redeeming justice, true peace, and joy made possible by the Holy Spirit

1. Peace & joy are great indicators of how well you're doing spiritually-EX: Brother Keith in healing school (no peace/joy)

C. When God is reigning in your life (submitted to Him) righteousness, peace and joy will be present-If any are lacking something is off

D. When Satan is reigning, it shows up in unrighteousness, the absence of peace and joy-In the world there is no righteousness, peace and joy because God is not reigning in the world-2Co4:4-The god of this world

E. When people look at us they should see people right with God, people living right and people who walk in peace and joy-If that's what God's kingdom is about, then being in His kingdom we should demonstrate these

II. God places great significance on peace and joy

A. Pursue peace-Rm14:19-Follow after the things which make for peace-Ps34:14-Seek peace, and pursue it-2Tm2:22-Follow...peace; Hb12:14-Follow peace with all men

B. Cast ALL your care, be careful for NOTHING-Strong language-He wants us to tolerate none of this-1Pt5:7-Casting ALL your care upon him; Ph4:6-Be careful for NOTHING; Mt6:25-AC-Stop being perpetually anxious and worried about your life

C. Rejoice always-Strong language-Do this all the time-Ph4:4-Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS: and again I say rejoice-Psalm 89:16-In thy name shall they rejoice ALL THE DAY-1Th5:15-Rejoice EVERMORE-2Cor6:4-10-As sorrowful, yet ALWAYS rejoicing

1. 85 times rejoice, be glad, be of good cheer-Ps32:11-Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

2. Stop sorrowing-1Sm16:1-How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go-Neh8:9-

Nehemiah...Ezra...the Levites...said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law...10...for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength-1Sm1:17-Go in peace

- D. Put away ALL anger and wrath-Strong language-He wants you with none of this so quit being mad-**Eph4:31**-Let ALL bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you-**Ps37:8**-Cease from anger, and forsake wrath-**Ep4:26**-Let not the sun go down on your wrath
- E. In NOTHING be terrified-Strong language-Don't let it be, quit it-**Ph1:28**-In **NOTHING** terrified by your adversaries-**AC**-Do not **FOR A MOMENT**; be frightened or intimidated in anything by your...adversaries-**Jn14:27**-Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you...Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid
 - 1. 215 references to some form of fear not
- F. We'll encounter sorrow, fear, anger, but we don't just lay down-He's not saying don't feel these, but rather don't lay down to them-**Ps9:2**-I will be glad and rejoice-**Ps118:6**-I will not fear-**Ps42:5**-Why are thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God-**1Sm30:6**-David was greatly distressed...but David encouraged himself in the Lord
- G. He leaves no room for any amount of anything opposite of peace and joy
- H. Are we placing the same importance on peace and joy that He does?-As quickly as we are to choose get angry, upset, down, worried it's evident we don't value these like He does

III. The reason why God's so strong about peace and joy and it goes far beyond your mood-Sorrow, fear, anger have resulting destructive effects and the enemy is after the effect, not the "mood"

- A. Effects of sorrow, fear and anger: (1)Break down the body-**Pr17:22** (2)Break down the spirit-**Pr15:13** (3)Shut God out-**Rm15:13,Mt13:58** (4)Let the devil in-**Js3:16** (5)Work not the righteousness of God-**Js1:20**