

Anticipating the Coming of the Lord

The Christian's Joy is in the Lord

Psalm 146

1. Joy in the Lord is _____

The framework for the Christian life is to be joy and rejoicing in the Lord (cf. Ps. 146:1a, 10b). Jesus taught the disciples about Himself so that we might have His joy made full in us (cf. John 15:11). As Christians grow in maturity, in both faith and obedience to the Lord, finding joy in the Lord at all times increasingly becomes a reflexive response to all circumstances (Acts 5:41; cf. 1 Pet. 4:12ff). However, when joy in the Lord is not a reflexive response it must be an intentional decision (Ps. 146:1b; cf. Ps. 42:5-6, 11; 103:1-2; 116:7).

2. Joy in the Lord is _____

Trusting in men is futile and short sighted because men are impotent, fickle, fragile, and temporary. The Lord is not impotent, He does not grow weary so as to fail those who trust in Him (cf. Isa. 40:28). The Lord is not fickle, but steadfast in His work to accomplish His plans (cf. John 10:28-29). The Lord does not die nor are His plans temporary, but He is faithful forever (Ps. 90:2; 103:17). The birth of the Savior was accompanied by great joy for those anticipating it (cf. Matt 2:10). A true understanding of the message of Christ always brings lasting joy that is beyond compare (cf. Matt 13:44; Luke 24:51-53).

3. Joy in the Lord is _____

We can be confident in our joy in the Lord because He has absolute power over all things (cf. Jon. 1:17; Matt 17:27) and He is able to sustain those who trust in Him (Ex. 34:6-7; cf. 1 Ki. 17:2-6; Matt 6:25ff). He is just and merciful, and His people can be comforted because of His personal care for us (cf. Lev. 19:32-34; Deut. 10:17-19). He is able to help His people who have needs in this life (John 9:1ff; cf. Luke 7:22), and His gracious blessings extend after our life is over (cf. Isa. 61:1-2). The Lord will show His love to those who He has made righteous (2 Cor. 5:21; cf. Ps. 11:7; 37:27-29).