



March 2012

Joy in Life

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NEVER GIVE UP

Issue 77

If you have been following in the book you will remember STEP 1: *Always Ask the Expert First*. STEP TWO: *Follow His Instruction*. Now, STEP 3: *Never Give Up*. (*Persevere: to persist in a state, enterprise, or undertaking in spite of counter influences, opposition, or discouragement*).

MARCH

A Letter to the Devil

Okay, I know you can't read my mind, but you know how to read and understand English. I know you were up way before me, plotting new ways of totally trying to ruin my day and my life.

I know your purpose (John 10:10), and that is to steal all of the peace, joy, and contentment God has promised me. You would love to have me get down on myself and question God's awesome plan and purpose for my life. It would make you very happy to steal any vision or dream God has put into my heart.

It would give you so much pleasure to destroy me, and to see my relationship with my Father fall apart. Your mission is to sow disharmony, doubt, and discord into my life. Your plan is to put enmity between my wife, children, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. You want me to feel bad about myself by bringing up the past and pointing out all of my many shortcomings and failures.

You try to put words and thoughts into my head that discourage me from receiving all of the very best Jesus came to give. Yesterday, you tried to upset me by deleting a full page for this book, but I have learned not to let it upset me. I instead chose to put my trust in God and know that what you stole, God would gladly replace.

So instead of stressing and fuming about what happened, I chose to go swimming. Did you go swimming, devil? Oh! I forgot; there is no water in hell. Yesterday, you were defeated, while I had a fantastic, wonderful, and glorious day.

As a matter of fact, I woke up this morning singing Psalm 118:24. ***"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."***

Today, I chose to walk with my Father and put my faith and trust only in Him. I know He will not only protect me from your wicked ways, but also direct me to the great glory and abundant life that (put your fingers in your ears, devil) the shed blood of *JESUS, JESUS, JESUS* came to give me. (Better get the devil a couple of aspirin; I think his head really hurts.) The devil is nothing, so don't buy his lie. James 4:7 tells us what to do: ***"Therefore submit to God (yield to His authority). Resist (take a stand against) the devil and he will flee from you."***

STEP THREE: NEVER GIVE UP.

YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER.

God is remarkable, and we thank Him for not only being present to us, but present in us as well. One of my favorite verses in the Bible is found in the Book of Acts (1:4–5), when Jesus was telling the disciples not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father: ***“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...” (Acts 1:8)***

Isn't it wonderful we have the assurance that when we accept Christ as Lord, He actually comes to live in us and through us; it is by His grace, regardless of our spiritual condition at the time of conversion. ***For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift from God: Not of works, lest anyone should boast (Eph. 2:8–9).***

We were not only promised the Holy Ghost; we were actually sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise (Eph. 1:13). Once we were saved, the Holy Ghost came to live inside of us and became our spirit and our guide. That is why Jesus could say: ***“I will never leave you or forsake you” (Heb. 13:5).***

God always fills our tank; none of us gets more or less of the Holy Ghost. We as believers must be careful not to judge others. The Holy Ghost is there to lead us to all truth about ourselves, and the will of God for our life. It was not given for us to measure the spiritual condition of others or to mandate our own preconceived laws, beliefs, or hang-ups upon others to prove their salvation to us. The Holy Spirit is there to make us more Christ-like and form us into His image; it is impossible for any of us to change ourselves, effect change in others, or bring them to Christ apart from His presence.

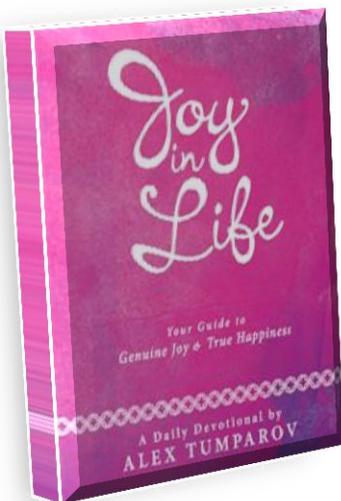
Jesus knew that all humanity was alike; He knew that people needed to know God's love (they need to be loved unconditionally), not feel judged. People need to be heard, listened to, and understood (He gave us His example), and He expects us to reach out to and get involved in the lives of others. People need to be respected, feel needed, and be treated as one of God's perfect creations (separated by sin but restored by the blood of the Lamb). We have all been given the same opportunity to spend eternity with Christ (***“not willing that any should perish ...” 2 Peter 3:9***), for it is His will that all should be saved.

We are always in the will of God when we walk in the Spirit. We were fully filled with the Holy Spirit when we were born again. How do we know when we are walking in the Spirit? We know by the capacity we have to love one another. ***“This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you” (John 15:12).***

STEP THREE: NEVER GIVE UP.

Our job is to let you know how much God loves you. *We would really appreciate your comments and prayer requests.*

“Much Joy in Life”



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