



JOY IN LIFE

"It's a love thing"

...With God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

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FACT VS FICTION

I have often been asked, "If God is good, then why do bad things happen?" I often answer, "If God is not good then how does good even exist?" Well you know what? "If God didn't exist and if He wasn't good, we wouldn't even be here discussing the matter." It's all a matter of perspective and how you pose the question. It's like the, is the glass half empty/half full question. According to God, it's neither; the glass is always overflowing. *And your vats will overflow with new wine.* Proverbs 3:10

The "Truth" is we are all are invited to God's supper table. In the Parable of the Great Supper, (Luke 14:15-24) Jesus talks about a certain man who gave a great supper and invited many. *He sent his servant out at suppertime to call all of those who were invited but they all began to make excuses. So the servant came back to report these things to the master. So the master of the house, being angry, said to the servant, "go out quickly into the streets, and bring the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind." And the servant did that and said, "Master, it is done as you commanded and there is still room." "Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in that my house may be filled.'*

The grace of God is such that He wants everyone to join Him in a life of rich rewards and multiple blessings, He even told the servant to compel, or plead with them to come in. The problem is that He won't force you to do anything you chose not to do. He has invited us all to join Him for a life that is full of rewards, it's just many chose not to attend.

To RSVP, accept God's grace so freely given through His Son Jesus Christ.

A TEACHABLE MOMENT

I was recently blessed by a two-week visit from my amazing 14-year-old grandson, Caleb. Just for fun one day, we decided to go to the mall just to browse and enjoy each other's company. We happened to stop into a store and my grandson saw some Van's shoes he really liked, I guess these shoes are very popular and pretty darned expensive. He really wanted those shoes but said, "I'd like to have those grandpa but I just don't have any money." Anyway, you know what comes next? Right the credit card. Never quite seen that boy so happy.

On the way home we somehow got into the topic of God and grace and he asks me “grandpa, what’s grace.” I thought about it for a while and finally said, “Son, grace is like when we were in the shoe store and grandpa knew you wanted those shoes. Now at that moment, you didn’t do anything to deserve or earn them and you certainly didn’t have the money to pay for them, but out of the love in your grandpas heart he chose to buy them for you anyway.”

Isn’t that the way it is with us? God’s grace out of love is freely given to us. We certainly don’t merit it or can ever do enough to earn it but He gives it anyway. The best example of grace is the story of the two criminals who hung on the cross next to Jesus. (Luke 23:39) One criminal told Jesus, *“If you are the Christ, save yourself and us.”* But the other criminal rebuked him saying, *“Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.”* Then he said to Jesus, *“Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”* And Jesus said to him, ***“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”***

Now that’s grace. Jesus knew at that point that those criminals’ backs were against the wall. They got everything they deserved and it was too late to turn their situation around. Their merits, or good works, could not save them... it was just too late. One refused to repent and acknowledge Christ. The other had a change of heart and Jesus accepted his expression as genuine and saved him. I know that day my grandson and I became aware of just how good the love of God is. *For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.* Ephesians 3:8

5 YEARS OF “JOY IN LIFE” Happy Birthday!!!

Oh the goodness of God who has blessed us for the past 5 years. 60 months of ministry and 1,825 Daily Devotionals. He has blessed us with so many opportunities to bless and encourage others, but more importantly for being blessed by all of you. Thank you so much for your words of encouragement, E-mails and support throughout the years.

If you know anyone who needs encouragement or inspiration, let us know we would be happy to put him or her on our list. God is in the business of loving each and every one of you... no matter what.

Our job is to let you know how much God loves you... “It’s a love thing.”



“Joy In Life”

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Thanks’ so much for all of your support. God Bless & Love, Alex