

March 16, 2010

Editor's note: While I travel, I am trying to let some of our interns have a chance to teach and write. This article was written by Al Liberio. He and his wife Elaine are in our third intern group. Right now I am in Botswana. Enjoy this article! Thanks for your prayers...love to all! KRP

JOY-FULL!!! -by Intern Student, Al Liberio

John 15:7 "if ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

John 15:8 "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

John 15:9 "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love."

John 15:10 "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

John 15:11 "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

Jesus, our beloved, our betrothed, is speaking words of love here. His words should be a treasure to us, just as one who is engaged, treasures the words of their betrothed. His voice is a sound that excites our heart as one who is engaged hears the voice of his betrothed. As the bridegroom that He is, He is setting the future life together in these verses. Starting now, is the best time to abide in Him. To abide is to dwell, to live, as in "it's so good to be home." In every engagement, the two are always trying to please the other, to bless the other, to surprise the other with gifts and words, so as to bring joy out of the one they love. Jesus is doing that here. He is telling us things that will bring His joy into us and out of us.

Do I trust my spouse? Am I willing to agree with my spouse immediately? Generally speaking I would have to say "yes". I know my dear wife loves me and she is a daily source of encouragement and peace and love. Her desire is to do everything she can to make our lives together the best possible. She is a treasure for sure. Jesus does all that and more for those who are His disciples. He is speaking to His disciples here as their bridegroom. It should be encouraging, and even exciting to know that one does not need to be recognized as a pastor or any of the five gift ministries to be betrothed to Jesus. Our greatest goal and passion should be to be the Bride of Christ! Just saying that "I am the betrothed Bride of Christ !" out loud, should bring joy into our lives.

The love of Jesus is the same as the Father's love for Him and this love is coming into all His disciples. A disciple is one who is obedient to the Word of God, bearing holy fruit and abiding in this perfect love. As we look at these three things we see that all three are joined into a oneness. They cannot be separated.

One of the outward signs of a lover of Jesus is joy. A joy-full saint is contagious. They are like a sunlit magnet, radiating Jesus! It is

"normal" as a Christian to be radiant. If this joy is not coming forth from us, then those three things of a disciple are not really thriving like they should.

Romans 14:17 is a great verse that describes what we should "look" like as Kingdom bearers, lovers of Jesus, His disciples.

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

As disciples, all three of these holy treasures of God are present within each one of us. How much is being displayed daily depends on our abiding love relationship with our beloved, betrothed Jesus. HALLELUYAH!!!

Remember dear ones, we must be about our Father's business...