

# Joy of Salvation

"Joy of Salvation" is the true Joy that every Christian cherish deep in their hearts ever since they experience "the salvation process". This inner joy is the meaning and purpose of life which does not recognize the importance of "Joy of the world". In today's world we witness that the utmost priority of life is to enjoy every moment of our lives in an earthly manner. We constantly strive for this enjoyment, ignoring the fact that our lives are trivial and susceptible to this modern world of terror and calamities.

It's interesting to note in Psalms 51, how precious was the "Joy of salvation", in the heart of King David...When he was the king of Israel, he had all the power, glory and wealth he needed. Unfortunately that power and glory, or the arrogance out of these, made him blind to the sin that he fell prey to. When his eyes met with the beauty of Uriah's wife Bathsheba, his lust led him to the sin of adultery. Later through manipulated plans he made arrangement to kill Uriah in the battle field. Here David plunged himself into the next greater sin of murdering an innocent soldier. A true Christian who experienced the presence of God in his life, and who sang the song "How lovely is your dwelling place Oh God, my heart yearns for it" was caught up in the whirlpool of sins.

However God was gracious and kind enough to reach out to him through Prophet Nathan...Prophet Nathan revealed God's reproach and anger to him and asked David to repent. This opened the eyes of this sinful man; He kneeled in front of God and pleaded for one thing. It was only one thing that King David asked God not to take away from him that was the "Joy of salvation". King David did not ask God not to take away his Kingdom or royal powers, like the way God did with King Saul. Rather he counted the inner most Joy that he experienced deep inside in his spirit as the most precious asset of his earthly life. King David desired to cling on to the "Joy of his spirit" forever without counting on the "Joy of the world" that he experienced through wealth, power or physical pleasures.

"Joy of the world" is the most commoditized business object in today's world. Yes, it can be purchased in many forms, such as liquor bottles, food packets, travel packages, gifts etc. Its interesting to note that these "joy" capsules are short living and needs to be purchased as many times as you want to experience it. This describes a temporary pleasure. Huge amounts of money have been invested in Research and Development for increasing the capacity to enjoy physical pleasures more than what God had planned for human life. Health clubs and Health magazines teach how people can be young for ever. Do you know why these industries want everyone to be young always? These industries can give you joy and pleasure that can be enjoyed only when you are young. But they are not able to do one thing that is nothing but stop our ageing. The very day we were born on earth we started ageing and as we grow old our desire for a greater Joy reaches new heights. If this is about our physical pleasures, there are more to write about Joy of Power and Joy of wealth possession. Look around and observe people, aren't we part of a generation who are really addicted to "chasing wealth". In today's corporate world it's very common that people work more than 18 hours a day. People generally speak they

enjoy working. What is the real motivation for all these isn't it "Joy of wealth possession" or "Joy of power"?

In the modern world, seeking "Joy" in everything we do has become the "norm" of life. This illness has crept into the relationship arena of life too. We Christians believe that marriages are made in heaven. So we believe that the relationship through marriage is holy and pure. Unfortunately no marriage relationship is always filled with happiness to meet the demands of the new norm. Inevitably we see more marriage divorces and relationship break-ups than ever before. People involved in marriage break ups do this with an ultimate motive of getting more contentment out of separation because the relationship has become a burden for them. The same folks forget the fact that they agreed to tie the knot with the same intension and expectation that marriage will give them more "happiness". Thus it becomes a never ending loop of search for pleasure.

Online Dating mechanisms, very easily portable marriage laws, exposure to multicultural marriage system gave new definitions to Husband-wife relationship. Unfortunately, these marriage definitions are failing to educate husband and wife with the divine meaning of marriage which is Commitment to God and Commitment to each other. It is sad to know that this illness is affecting the Malayalee Christian community also in a very fast pace.

Contrary to the "Joy of the world" bible teaches that there is fullness of Joy in God's presence and in God's right hand there is eternal pleasures. This fullness of Joy and the eternal pleasures are given to us through Jesus Christ. In 1 Peter 1:3-6, Bible says, God in his mercy gave us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The living hope is nothing but the eternal life which has been given to us through the resurrected Christ. Does this inner Living Hope decay with your ageing? Never, this inner Living hope fills us with the true Joy of Life that can last forever. What is the step that we need to take to experience this eternal life? The step is simple and clear "Believe in Jesus". From this step the salvation process takes us through a series of experiences that helps us to realize how great the real "Joy of salvation" is as it was explained by King David. Those experiences are;

- Experiencing an Eternal Peace in our heart
- Experiencing a Craving inside the heart to be "Holy and Pure" in God's sight
- Experiencing an Eternal Hope and assurance of Life after death
- Experiencing strength to face problems in life
- Experiencing a new meaning to Life
- Desire to share this Joy and Love with others who are not experiencing this love.
- Experiencing a strength to correct the "mistakes" of the past, as in the life of Zacchaeus who repaid 4 times

In Philippians 3:5-8, Apostle Paul says "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord ". Here Apostle Paul considers the real "Joy of the world" as nothing, compared to the "Joy of the eternal world". As I conclude, I would like to prompt you with a question what do you want to consider a loss today? Is it the "Joy of this world" or "Joy of the eternal world?"

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