

*Joy Comes in the Morning*

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*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

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## INTRODUCTION

“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Psalm 30:5*b*).

“The darker the night, the brighter the light shines.” Oh, I still hear the words of that old song as they were sung by my first wife, who suffered and died from cancer a number of years ago. These phrases still bring so much comfort to my heart.

The dark seasons our souls go through can seem so very, very long. Nighttime experiences also bring pain and tears. Still, Psalm 30 promises that for every night there is a morning. No matter how dark things may become, the light will shine when the sun rises.

Think of how the disciples must have felt shortly after Jesus Christ’s lifeless body was taken from the Cross and carried to the tomb. Much heaviness must have come over them as the stone was rolled into place and their Master disappeared from their sight. How dark that Fri-

day night must have been for them as they returned to their homes.

Yet, for all the despair that came on Friday, that following Sunday the sun broke through, the earth quaked, the stone was rolled away, and Jesus Christ was resurrected. The only begotten Son of God became the first begotten from the dead. He came alive again and remains alive, seated at the right hand of the Father, ever making intercession for each of us.

Joy came to earth that Easter morning. In the just same way, joy can come to us in every one of our mornings.

May God bless these words and bless each one reading them with the spirit of worship, the spirit of faith, the spirit of responding, and the spirit of trusting. May God bring in a spirit of blessing as it relates to eternity for every single person, in Christ's name.

*Chapter One*  
RECOGNIZING  
THE TREASURE WITHIN

“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

“Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed” (2 Corinthians 4:5-9).

“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing them-

selves among themselves, are not wise.

“But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you” (2 Corinthians 10:12-13).

The “treasure” Jesus Christ speaks of is the way He gives us His light and knowledge, the doctrine of His glory in the face of His Finished Work. We have a treasure in these earthen vessels, that the power may be of God and not of us.

Think for a moment of the great principle of judging not. When it comes to any one of us measuring ourselves by ourselves, we all could justifiably measure ourselves against someone else and come out on top compared to the failures of others. That is because all of us have sinned.

So many are judgmental and critical of certain kinds of failures—usually of those that are far removed from their own weaknesses—while they fail God but in different ways. This is why Romans 2:1 says that “thou art inexcusable, O man,” speaking of one who judges: for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself, because you do the same *things*, (not the same *thing*). In the measure we judge, judgment is returned to us with the very thing that we judged

with in the first place (see Matthew 7:1).

### *God Gets All the Glory*

We have this treasure inside our bodies. We have the Father, we have the Son, and we have the Holy Spirit, that the excellency of the ability of power may be of God and not of us. God must receive all the glory for everything in this ministry and in each individual's life. In everything, God must be the one who receives the glory.

According to Acts 12, God will not share His glory with another. He will *supply* His glory, He will *impart* His treasure in our earthen vessels, but He will not share His glory lest a man exalt his own efforts. A man can be loved, honored, and respected but never exalted, because God is the One to be glorified.

### *We Are But Dust*

We all have feet of clay. Therefore, it is not fair when we depend upon each other and make unreasonable expectations upon others. We are all in bodies of sin and death (Romans 6:6; 7:24). I am not excusing our failures, but I am making a provision so that we do not judge one another in the midst of our failure.

“We are troubled on every side, yet not in distress; we are perplexed, but not destroyed” (2 Corinthians 4:8).

This word “troubled,” a present passive participle in the Greek text, refers to something we go through because of the treasure in our earthen vessel. We suffer “tribulation,” a term derived from the word used to describe the process of pressing and squeezing grapes.

“Troubled” refers to the present whereas “perplexed” refers to the future. When we are perplexed, we seem to have no way out, and we feel stuck in embarrassment or doubt; that is, unless the treasure is operating thoroughly and fully in us.

According to this verse, we are squeezed on every side, yet not in distress. We must understand that sometimes we are placed in narrow places. God allows us to be crowded into tight spots. Still, we are not in despair (another present participle middle voice in the Greek grammar). That means the subject receives and participates in the action of the verb. “In despair” is *exaporeomai*, which means to be utterly at a loss, to despond, to be utterly without a way. We are not in despair, however, because we have a new and living way made by Jesus Christ

when He died on the Cross for us.

*Chapter Two*

ENDURING  
THE NIGHT SEASONS

As we consider this, I remember a message by E.V. Hill: “Weeping at Night and Joy in the Morning.” I listened to some of it late, late one night because I couldn’t sleep. It was very good, and it made me think of this section of 2 Corinthians. In that message, Pastor Hill said that we weep because we do have nighttimes.

Everybody has night seasons. Everyone has the dark times in their life. It is hard to say how long those periods may go on. They may last a long time for some people. We may weep because we are falling short. We may weep because we are sick of failing in an area, so we weep in our hearts. We may weep because a child or a member of the family utterly fails, and that makes parents weep. In a marriage where someone has indeed been unfaithful and gone out on their partner, the victim weeps.

May I add that we weep because many times we are persecuted unjustly. If it is consistent, if it continues for a long period of time, we weep more. We are human, so we weep. It is a night hour for us, and we weep. We weep because loved ones hurt us, because friends hurt us. Then we weep because we hurt loved ones and friends and we are sorry for hurting them. There are so many night hours we go through in this lifetime, times when we are troubled on every side but not in distress, perplexed but not destroyed, persecuted but not forsaken, and therefore we weep.

Then there are times that we weep when, through the Holy Spirit, we honestly consider people going to hell, especially if it is a member of our own family. We weep when we consider the damnation and darkness of hell, which is the destiny for people who plainly reject Jesus Christ. We weep when we consider some of the people we have known all our lives who have died and who definitely rejected Jesus Christ, because they are in hell. We weep because so many people are lost. That troubles us, and that makes us very, very concerned. We seem so helpless to do anything about it. And it is all because they simply reject Jesus Christ.

## *Pain, Illness, and Pressure*

Sickness is another thing that can make folks weep. Some people we know have been sick for a long time, and we see what they go through. We see pain that nobody knows but them. We sense the agony, the feelings of their emotions, the thoughts in their minds, what goes through their heart, and we feel so helpless. Yes, they will receive grace. Yes, they will be blessed in eternity, but we weep because of what they must endure in this lifetime.

We weep if we lose a loved one, and we weep in identification with other people who have lost a loved one. Even though we know that Christians are absent from the body and present with God immediately, tears come as we consider certain memories and the plain fact that we will miss them.

For example, a very special lady lost her husband who was in his forties. No one knows but this woman and her family what she has gone through. She has some dear friends who have stood by her side. We know that this separation from our friend is but for a moment. Yes, God does give grace, and God does make a provision, and thank God He sustains us and builds

us up. But we do weep because we identify with how they must feel.

We weep for children when a home is broken up by someone's unfaithfulness. That is a nighttime experience. We weep. We may not weep outwardly, or we may weep outwardly, but I'll guarantee you, we weep.

### *The Afflictions of Our Society*

We also weep because society is just plain mad. For example, the boastfulness that has come with the rise of homosexuality and lesbianism: Bragging, boasting, coming out of the closet, they demand that society would accept their lifestyle. I have compassion for any sinner who wants help, but many want us to agree that what they are doing is okay. We also weep because of the drug addicts, the murderers, and the thieves who continue in their ways.

Some people weep because they just never have finances enough to get by, and they have to go on and on and on with needs. We weep at those things. Having said this, there is basically no quick-fix program for many of these situations.

It takes prayer. And with prayer there always comes hope.

### *Chapter Three*

## THE SUN ALWAYS COMES UP

“It is of the LORD’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

“They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

“The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

“The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

“It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD” (Lamentations 3:22-26).

The beautiful thing that the Bible reveals to us is this: Nights do not last forever. The sun does come up. There is always a morning. And then there is joy.

Oh, the joy we have when God brings us into something!

For example, when I was a young man, we lived in a house with no indoor facilities (if you

know what I mean). We had no electric lights when I was a teenager, no hot water, none of those things. To have gone from that stage in life to owning a house, there is joy.

There is such joy when God gives us faithful friends. And then there is joy over reconciliations. In the past several years, I personally have had many reconciliations with people who do not live in this area. They have been very sacred and very precious reconciliations where love is now abounding and prayer was answered because the morning came.

The sun came up, joy came back, and that joy became our strength.

### *Trained in the Night Seasons*

The night seasons have trained us in many areas. They have taught us how to identify with the Cross. They taught us how to identify with Christ's sufferings. The night seasons have taught us how to trust Him in the midst of some of our worst situations. That has been very profitable for us, very meaningful for us. I thank God for those times.

I was sharing this principle with a businessman who has become my great friend. We were together in my office, and we were both very

broken as he shared about his thirty years of marriage. I was telling him how my first wife suffered with leukemia. Oh, the pain, pain, pain! I shared about the night that I came home with the college basketball team from New York after she heard the news from the doctor. I can still see her saying to me, "Sit down." And we sobbed.

For the next two months, her pain was incredible. She said, "Please, please pray that God will take me home, because I can't stand this pain." When leukemia is in its worst stage, there is nothing you can do to take away the pain. Give medicine, do anything, and it doesn't work anymore. The needles go in, and the transfusions keep you alive, but you are just in so much pain.

The night before she went home to Jesus, she said very beautifully to me, "You are my king." And I said, "You are my queen." She was gone just few hours later.

But the joy came in the morning because she was out of her suffering. It was God's appointment for her to take her home.

### *At Last, Joy Will Come*

Joy always follows suffering. Joy always fol-

lows, and the morning always comes. Light will always shine through. It can't stay dark all the time.

“Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God” (Isaiah 50:10).

“And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel” (Isaiah 45:3).

If we are careful to observe them, then we will find treasures in darkness, secret riches in the midst of painful times. When our mind is stayed on God, He gives us amazing victories of faith and grace.

As you think this over, never let your darkness or your weeping defeat you. Whatever the reason is for trouble, it really isn't the issue. Never let these things bring you down. Things are going to hurt you. There will be plenty of pain. But never let those things keep you there.

Learn and grow in the grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ through all things. And remember, if you are going through some of these

things now, I will guarantee you that the sun will come up, and the dark night of your soul will be over. It doesn't matter if you fail or I fail or somebody else fails us. It really doesn't matter. Any of these things can cause weeping. But thank God, joy comes in the morning!

## CONCLUSION

Yes, we can be troubled on every side, yet not in distress. We are sometimes perplexed, but we are never destroyed. We endure persecution, but we are not forsaken. As all of us old-time boxers used to say, we are often knocked down but not knocked out.

As believers, we are always bearing about in our bodies the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus may indeed be manifested in our bodies. We which are alive are delivered unto the Cross that the life of Jesus Christ may be manifested to others.

Often the Cross and death work in us so that life can work in those who do not know Christ the way we do. God never gives us more than we can take, although many times it seems as if He does. But we will always find that God is faithful (1 Corinthians 10:13). God is so faithful! He will not put us into situations that we cannot take, and with every temptation He always will

provide a way of escape.

*Father, indeed bless us today with this message. We thank You for the truth of it. We thank You for Your provision. We thank You that there is a purpose in it. The Cross is working in us, the death of Christ is working in us, and life is going out of us. And where is that life coming from? It is coming from the treasure that is in us. That treasure is revealing its reflections and its light, giving hope and the promise of joy even in the darkest night. Thank You! In Jesus' name, Amen.*