

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Psalms 16:11 KJV



You can be gratified without pleasure but pleasure always gratifies. For example; I can be glad I'm still alive hanging at the end of a rope after falling off a rock face, but not necessarily pleased by my predicament. Pleasure may not always bring you "fulness of joy," either. I may well be pleased with my slice of cheesecake but not necessarily overjoyed at the amount of the calories consumed. God's presence is the only place in the eternity where all three come together at once! God is omnipresent and in that sense, all are always in His presence, but the disobedient do not have "fulness of joy." God is even present in Hell for all things are always under His control! *"If I ascend up into heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there."* It's only when we walk the "path of life," trusting obedience of God's Word, that we experience "fulness of joy. Jesus saith unto him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." If you reject, ignore, or mock Holy Scripture in any way, you have left "the path of life!" There is no other way to acquire the trilogy of Joy found in it's well lit path. There are no pleasures in hell! The crowd is always going the wrong way, "because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Do you find yourself in the throes of discontent? Discontent is born of covetousness. *"Let your conversation (behavior) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: And having food and raiment let us be therewith content; for He (Jesus) hath said, 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.'" God's bountiful provision is always found on the path of obedience and nowhere else. If you disobey, you're on your own! "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."* It takes faith, believing and trusting God, to be content with little today even though you know tomorrow's needs will be greater. It is only when we see ALL circumstances as divinely designed that we can sing in the dungeon! *"We know that ALL THINGS work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to HIS PURPOSE."* If it's God's purpose you pursue and not your own, then you will live a life of delightful contentment! The only way out of trouble is to follow "the path of life." Only there do we come into the glow of "fulness of joy." It is only as we walk at God's right hand that we find and enjoy "pleasures for evermore." Note the plural; pleasures, not just one, many! You'll "have your cake and eat it, too," if you obey God out of love and trust. I dare you to prove God wrong!

There is no sweeter place to be,
Than in Thy presence, close to Thee!
When from this world to Christ I flee,
My sorrow turns to joy and glee! ~CGP

God's divine plan for the Philippian jailer's salvation included Paul and Silas being flogged and jailed. They trusted God and sang praises in the midnight hour until God joined in so powerfully the earth shook and the prison doors fell off. Thankfully the jailer chose correctly. The man that jailed them begged their help. *"What must I do to be saved?"* God will get you out of bed at midnight to face your Gospel decision. God does not force you to go against your will, but He'll sure make you willing to go! There's only one way to go from a dungeon - up!

"Let all those that seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee: let such as love Thy Salvation say continually, 'The LORD be magnified.'" Psalms 40:16 KJV