

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:" 1 Peter 1:7-8 KJV



When does Jesus cross your mind? Is it only when you have a need, or do you revel in the contemplation of His person and power? Do thoughts of Jesus and His love so excite you that you cannot contain yourself? Are you listening for the Shout and clarion call of Trumpet that will announce His arrival in the air to meet you as you rise upwards? Does contemplation of Christ fill your heart with longing and satisfaction at once? Do you daydream of spending time at His feet? Do you try to imagine what His Voice will sound like as it falls on your immortal ears for the first time? *"Whom having not seen, ye love?"* Remember, Jesus is *"the Word made flesh. Thy Word is Truth."* Jesus told us, *"I am...the Truth."* Meditating on God's Word is contemplation of Christ: Its admonitions; its examples; its instructions; its wisdom; and its promises are all about God, Jesus Christ, *"in whom dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."* If thoughts of God's Word, Jesus Christ, do not completely fill your soul with unabated joy, then you do not love Him. You probably do not even know Him. You may say, "I've got more pressing issues to deal with than spend my time daydreaming." Being with Christ is not daydreaming; it's called meditation and prayer and we are told to *"meditate therein day and night; pray without ceasing."* What would be too difficult for Him? What human problem would vex God's wisdom? Most times we know what God wants us do, but it just doesn't fit OUR plans or desires. Do you think Jesus doesn't know you think that? Is anything hidden from Him? Will He not be your final Judge when the *"books are opened?"* What answer will you have for neglecting His presence and council? Will any answer be acceptable? Not even work should supplant His presence in our minds. Do your work BESIDE Christ not ASIDE FROM Christ. The redeemed have no excuse for pursuing any earthly cause without praise, meditation, and prayer. *"Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."* Worship, fellowship, and love of Jesus must be our reason for getting up every day. If you have no joy in your life, it is because you have excluded Christ for temporal pursuits. If I think on Christ through His Word every waking moment, what could possibly offend me? *"Great peace have they which love Thy law and nothing shall offend them."* What is there that could possibly bode ill for me if I walk with God? *"We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."* The status of their relationship with Jesus should be the greatest concern of every believer.

The joy of knowing, Christ, our Lord,
Comes from knowing every word,
Proceeding from the Voice divine,
And making ev'ry promise mine! ~CGP

Are tired, sad, and lonely? Jesus will give you comfort, peace, and joy. When is the last time you truly felt *"joy unspeakable?"* When is the last time you spent the whole day with Christ by your side? His Love and Joy is our love and joy if we keep God's Word in our thoughts and heart and obey it.

"If ye keep (obey) my commandments, ye shall abide in my Love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His Love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my JOY might remain in you, and that your Joy might be full." John 15:10-11 KJV