

The Full Joy of the Bridegroom God

I. THE JOY OF GOD AS BRIDEGROOM

- A. The revelation of God's character, personality, and emotions is the source of our joy forever. It is the central sustaining reality in the prophetic church, the end-time prayer movement, and the kingdom of God forever into eternity.

"And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—7 these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer." -Isaiah 56:7

"...as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. 6 On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest, 7 and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth." -Isaiah 62:5-7

- B. The message of the Bridegroom heart of God is foreign and abstract to many believers in the body of Christ, but it is avidly central and abundant throughout scripture and the Holy Spirit will divinely impart this identity before the Lord returns.

"He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled." -John 3:29

- C. The Bridegroom message is the deep desire of Jesus' heart, emotions, affections, beauty, splendor, His commitments to us (to share His heart, home, throne, secrets, etc.) and our response of wholehearted love (obedience). Jesus created us for love. (We refuse any sensual misinterpretations regarding the Bridegroom message. Jesus is not your boyfriend.) (Isa. 54:4-12; 62:2-5; Jer. 2:2; 31:32; Ezek. 16:32; Hos. 1:2; 2:7, 14-23; 3:1-5; Mt. 9:15; 22:1-14; 25:1-13; Jn. 3:29; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-32; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:9; 22:17).
- D. The Bridegroom heart is the very nature of the Godhead. Here, we find God is not mostly angry or mostly sad, but is mostly extravagantly happy.
- E. It is the revelation of the emotions of God that produces the strength to do day and night prayer, to stand without wavering through adversity, and to walk in wholehearted obedience.
- F. We must become students of the emotions and pleasure of God unto the transformation of our mind, will, and emotional life. This is the essence of why we exist forever.

II. THE FULLNESS OF JOY

- A. The culture of the Bridegroom Godhead is pure bliss and fullness of joy (Rev. 4-5).
- B. Jesus declared to His disciples, ***“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in My love” (Jn. 15:9)*** that His joy would be in them and that their ***“joy may be full”***.

5 “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.” - John 17:5

- C. ***“Before the world existed”*** we find the source of ***“joy inexpressible”*** and the ***“fullness of glory”*** in the Godhead. The glory of God is not just His divine power or majesty, but a revelation of what He is actually like in His nature, personality, and emotions.
- D. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. It gives humanity definition. God is going to keep fascinated and exhilarated for billions and billions of years into eternity.

***How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. 8 They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. 9 For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.* -Psalm 36:7-9**

***You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.* -Psalm 16:11**

- E. As a friend of God and intercessor, Moses went after God and desired His presence. You can sit in the presence of a king and still be strangers at the end of the day. It's not just about the Presence, it's about the Person. The glorious reality of the Presence is only because of the Person who it emanates from--the Bridegroom God. We intentionally set our hearts to interact with the source of the Presence.

14 And He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” 15 And he (Moses) said to him, “If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?” -Exodus 33:14-16 (ESV)

Moses asked the Father to show him His glory:

19 And he said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The Lord.’” -Exodus 33:19

F. **The LORD -- "Yahweh":**

1. ***Merciful*** - The Lord delights in mercy. He stoops to care for the weak and undeserving. Jesus gave up His rights and his equality with the Father to express mercy to his enemies and save whoever will come to Him.
2. ***Gracious*** - The Father gives good gifts. He is extravagant beyond our wildest imaginations. He is kind in all His deeds (Ps. 145:17)
3. ***Longsuffering*** - God is slow to anger. He even gives Jezebel time to repent (Rev. 2:21).
4. ***Abounding in goodness*** - Goodness is God's very nature. He overflows with all that is good and pleasing. All that we receive is from an overflowing One that is all-powerful and totally kind and good.
5. ***Keeping mercy for thousands*** - God has stored up mercy for the nations, for all that will call upon Him. He waits to show mercy. He literally dreams up ways to show mercy -- the cross being the highest and most extravagant act of mercy that could possibly be conceived.
6. ***Forgiving iniquity*** - Jesus' blood has removed our guilt before the Father and has given us a new righteous nature.
7. ***By no means clearing the guilty*** - He will punish openly all that will not repent. In His zeal for love and truth, He must destroy everything that hinders love.
8. ***Visiting iniquity of fathers on children*** - He is a righteous Judge that will even visit iniquity of fathers on children for sins of parents in order to keep the sin from perpetuating and destroying more lives. This is actually God's mercy in preserving righteousness.

G. The Bridegroom God is mostly happy and filled with desire for the image-bearers and for His own glory. Though He does get angry and sad, His anger is released only to remove the things that hinder us from *experiencing* His pleasure.

H. God's power is dictated by His desire.

"Father, I desire that they, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory..." -Jn. 17:24

I am my beloved's and his desire is toward me. -Song of Solomon 7:10

III. CONFIDENCE IN THE BRIDEGROOM: THE BRIDE'S IDENTITY

- A. John the Baptist connected his heart to this reality, and in the time when his ministry was diminishing in the natural, his heart was full of joy (John 3:22-29). This was in contrast to many of his disciples who, it appears, were hurt, angry, or offended that many were following after Jesus (Jn. 3:25-26).

"He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled." -John 3:29

1. ***He who has the bride is the bridegroom:*** the bride belongs to Jesus the bridegroom as the only begotten Son, in whom all the fullness of God dwells (Col. 1:19).
2. ***But the friend of the bridegroom:*** the friend of the bridegroom is intimately connected to the story. He's not just a hired hand, servant, or a workforce, but a friend. The bridegroom doesn't just need him there, He *wants* him there. He's entrusted with secrets, dreams, and revelation.
3. ***Stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegrooms voice:*** the voice of the Lord is meant to be heard. The Father's intent was not for us to experience the desire of His heart only at our salvation.
4. ***This joy of mine is fulfilled:*** joy fulfilled only comes from the Joy Fulfiler. You are a capacity made to be filled with God and the fullness of His joy.

IV. LIVING UNDERSTANDING

- A. Daniel Lim's word at Relentless Conference 2012: ***God is preparing vessels in our hour whose lifestyles now will match the lifestyles of the age to come. God is igniting a catalytic prayer room.***
- B. We encounter the emotions and pleasure of God by "beholding" God (2 Cor. 3:18). Open the Scriptures, wait, tarry, meditate, pray them back to God. What we set our eyes, heart, and mind to, we open our spirits up to. David got a living understanding of the "*pleasures forevermore*" at God's right hand (Ps. 16:11) by revelation.
- C. God loves us like God loves Jesus. God is not stingy in His revelation.
1. ***26 "I made known to them Your (Father) name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You(Father) have loved Me (Jesus) may be in them, and I in them." -Jn. 17:26***

- D. When the pleasures of God touches the heart of man it redefines everything about them. Just as was with the 120 on Pentecost in Acts 2. The fire of God's desire took timid individuals and made them bold, it took weak ones and made them strong, it took angry hearts and made them tender, as a people became fully aware of the indwelling Spirit by the fire above their heads. When this reality touches our heart it radically redefines our view of success.

- E. By the Spirit, the Church will understand her primary identity as the Bride and Jesus as Bridegroom before Jesus returns: ***"The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let anyone who hears say, "Come." -Rev. 22:17***