

Seven Secrets to Keeping Your Joy

✘ *Discover*

the most common obstacles to joy-filled living and learn what it takes to overcome them. It's not as tough as you think.

ARE

YOU ENJOYING your life? If not, God wants you to. Jesus said in John

10:10 that Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy, but He came that we

“may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it

overflows)” (AMP). I believe this means God wants us to

enjoy every part of our lives—not just little bits and pieces here and

there.

Many people today

live their lives in a constant state of stress and turmoil.

But as

Christians, we don't have to live that way. Why? Because God's Spirit

lives in us, and a fruit of His Spirit is joy.

Let the Pain Go

✘ *Every*

woman has endured one kind of heartbreak or another. We've all had the

unfortunate experience of betrayal, and we've grieved over the difficulty of getting past it. As Christian women, how do we process the hurts we go through? And where is our God in the midst of them?

In the book of 2 Samuel, King David's daughter Tamar suffered an unspeakable violation at the hands of her brother Amnon, who afterward, rejected her and cast her away. The Scripture says: "Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornamented robe she was wearing. She put her hand on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went" (2 Sam. 13:19, NIV).

Stand Strong in Jesus

Whether or not you were taught as a child to walk by faith, you can learn how to weather adversity and find courage and strength in the Lord.

When I was growing up, I learned the meaning of standing strong in God by watching my family. They were living examples I could observe every day. I saw how faithful my parents were to God and to each other, and I

wanted to be like that, too.

My

mom was a deeply committed woman of God. I am convinced that every

demon and devil of hell knew her name—her first name. My grandmother was

so full of the power of the Holy Ghost that she could lay hands on the

sick and, believe me, they would recover.

The Joy of Following Christ

Sin and ill are the false notes struck by man across the harmony of God's will, and to strike upon or even remember such notes

is instant banishment from the music of His presence. Where all is joy,

there joy is all; and he who has not reached this joy does not know

God—he is still a follower, and not a possessor, and he should refuse

in his heart to remain satisfied with his condition, but climb on. Why

stay behind? Climb on, climb on!

Often I have been mystified and disturbed by the attitude of many religious and pious people who appear to believe that to follow

Christ is a way of gloom, of sadness, of heaviness. Often I have

gathered from sermons that we are to give up all the bright and

enticing things if we would follow Him, and the preacher goes no further!

Has the Lord, then, no enticements, no sweetnesses, no brightness to offer us, that we should be asked to forsake all pleasantness, all brightness, all attractions if we follow Him? This to me always seemed terrible, and my heart would sink. Indeed, to my poor mind and heart it seemed nothing more hopeful than a going from bad to worse!

Love My Enemy?

✘ *It's only by the power of the Holy Spirit that we can forgive.*

Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope. It stands when all else has fallen. How do we get that strong love? The Holy Spirit is the one who gives it to us. We must look to Him when faced with the challenge of loving our enemies.

In Africa I visited a man who was imprisoned and sentenced to death. I asked, "Have you ever heard of the cross of Jesus Christ, where He carried the sins of the world—also your sins?"

He nodded.

Women are an Answer, Not a Problem!

Many people believe that as a gender, males are superior. Watch as Lisa Bevere dispels this myth and discusses how God created us as the solution to a problem.

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Why We Should Still Honor America

✘ As the turbulent '60s concluded and a new decade began, Billy Graham appeared at a July 4 event in Washington, D.C., called "Honor America Day."

More than 400,000 people attended, while millions watched on television or heard it on the radio in 123 other countries.

Bob

Hope, Dinah Shore, Jack Benny, Glen Campbell, The New Christy Minstrels

and Teresa Graves were among those who performed that day.

According

to liner notes on the album, Honor America Day was denounced by the extreme right and the extreme left, but was supported by ordinary Americans, “rich and poor, black and white, Republicans and Democrats, Christians and Jews.”

Christians Threatened, Abused in Asia

☒ Throughout South Asia, many of Jesus’ followers—especially those who have recently committed their lives to Him—face persecution from their communities. Within the past year, the following Christians have experienced threats and abuse because they claim the name of Jesus:

Man’s New Infectious Faith Provokes Village Unrest

Kantimoy once devoutly followed the religion traditional to his people group. He, his wife and their three children got up early every day to worship their deity. Kantimoy was even in charge of maintaining the property of the temple in his village.

But the gods and goddesses he worshiped couldn’t heal his three children. His 10-year-old son, Jugnu, suffered from seizures,

his

8-year-old daughter had a hole in her heart and his youngest daughter

experienced night terrors that disrupted his entire household, robbing

them of sleep.

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Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me." –John 14:23-24

Shielded With Favor

For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield. –Psalm 5:12