

A Disposition of Inward Joy
By Jonathan McNaulty

It is a truth of life that our disposition is determined more by our inward man than by our exterior circumstances. Consider two friends, working at the same job, facing the same difficulties, and yet approaching them very differently. "I can't see things ever getting better," says the first, "I'm getting older, my health is getting worse; there is hardly enough money to pay the bills, and I find no joy in life."

"Things are great and getting better," says the second, "Life is wonderful." "How can you say such a thing," asks the first, "You are no healthier than I, no wealthier than I, and you face many of the same difficulties I do."

"My outward man is dying, it is true, but my inward man is being renewed daily. My bank account is empty, but I have treasures laid up in heaven. And the difficulties are nothing compared to the joy that awaits me in heaven (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16; Matthew 6:19-20; Romans 8:18)." Your Joy will not be found in the earthly accomplishment.

Attitude is everything when dealing with life, and God makes it possible to have a great attitude. Not a naïvely unreasonable attitude, but rather an optimistic hope based in the firm promises of God. One of the great examples of this, oft cited, is that of the men, Paul and Silas, who, having been arrested for preaching the gospel, subsequently beaten soundly, and then locked, injured and wounded, in stocks in the bottom of a dungeon, spent the next few hours singing songs and offering praise to God (Acts 16:25). Their outward circumstances were as sad, tragic and deplorable as could be; but their sins were forgiven and they had been freed in Christ, and thus had joy in their hearts sufficient as to sing.

These two saints were just following the example of Christ, who, having been beaten, tortured, stripped naked, and nailed to a cross, was able to say, in the midst of pain, "Father, forgive them (Luke 23:34)." Though His outward circumstances were horrific, Jesus was able to commend Himself to God, and had the firm and true hope that He would soon be once more in paradise (cf. Luke 23:43, 46).

In Christ, it is possible to have an attitude sufficient so as to weather any storm, or face any trial, and do so with joy, hope, and love. Such a feat requires, it is true, a good reworking of the inward man, but that is what Christ truly wants to give to us. "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind," says the Bible (Romans 12:2). Let God renew that inward man on a daily basis (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16). Learn to think on those things good, lovely and noble (cf. Philippians 4:8).

Unfortunately, many seek only a superficial sort of religion that consists of little more than outward show. Of such was the religion of the Pharisees which Jesus condemned, likening them to white-washed tombs, that, while they looked rather clean and lovely on the outside, were filled with rot and decay (cf. Matthew 23:27). Such a religion is worthless for overcoming the trials of life, and sadly, in such a religion, there is no true hope. If the inward man is dead, the trials of life will too often prove superior to our faith and joy. We will find ourselves feeling bleak and lost. If the inward man is dead, then we truly are lost, and eternity will be bleak.

If you want the full blessings of Christ (cf. Ephesians 1:3) then you must allow Him to work on changing you inwardly, replacing the worldly with the spiritual, the sinful with the righteous, and the temporary with the eternal. Such change begins with faith and repentance, a forgiveness of sins in the waters of baptism, and a new life in Christ. But as we walk with Christ, through our obedience to His word, we allow Him to continue to work on us inwardly.

Such a process is well worth it, producing as it does, joy eternal, peace that passes understanding, and an overflow of love within and without us. With such gifts, we can weather any trial, and come out as victors (cf. Romans 8:35-37).

Serving today and next Sunday:

Sunday AM Rotation	March 6, 2022	March 13, 2022
Announcements	Sam Martin	John McGiffin
Song Leading	Owen Whittington	Sam Martin
Opening Prayer	Jerry Thompson	Tom Muter
Lord's Supper Comments	Tim Bang	Jason Bang
Scripture Reading	Chris McGiffin	Owen Whittington
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer	Duane Kemp	Curt Thompson

Things you should know about!

Communion is available as you come in the building, please take only what is needed for today. Hold on to the emblems until the proper time.

Happy Birthday!!!

Jonathan Rohr & Josiah Rohr 3/12

Brennan Arrell 3/19

If you would like to contribute to the Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, you can give money to Jason or place in the offering plate. Please be sure to mark it accordingly.

North End Church of Christ Youth Rally - Parkersburg, WV
Friday and Saturday, March 11-12

See John if you have a teen that is interested in going.

This month's potluck will be next week, March 13th.

It is also Daylight Savings day, so don't forget to change your clocks!!

March 20th brief Men's meeting after AM service.

If you have items that need discussed, please see John or Jason.

Mark your calendars and invite your family and friends!!

Family and Friends Day
April 10, 2022

Speaker: JD Buckner from Lebanon Rd Church of Christ, TN

Please call John or email him at jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com with any prayer requests or announcements you may have for the congregation.

Bible Verse of the Week

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith...” 1 John 5:4



Lord’s Supper Reflection –Why Did Jesus Die?

In the Lord’s Supper we are to remember Jesus

“...and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.” 1 Corinthians 11:24-25

Offering Meditation

Rejoice: Your Gift to God is to be Given Freely and Wholeheartedly

“Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly.” 1 Chronicles 29:9



Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Country & leaders, Ukraine crisis
- *Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- *Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
- *Freddy Mollhollen (friend of the McGiffin’s) - just found out he’s got cancer
- *Evelyn Lam - recovering from wrist surgery.
- *Doug Hoff and family grieving the loss of his mother, Miriam Miller.
- *Family of Ray Miller (Sam Martin’s grandpa) grieving his passing.
- *Tom Cruz (Phyllis Caldwell’s nephew) - having health issues, will be moving to OH soon
- *Delores Fox (Tim & Dianna’s daughter) - having health issues
- *Ronnie Martin (Sam Martin’s uncle) - health issues

- *Michael Whitsel (gentleman we’ve helped with benevolence) - asked for prayers for his mother who is in a nursing home, her sister recently passed away.
- *Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - ongoing health issues for them both, shut ins
- *David Glenn - is looking for a job, also asks for prayers for his mom and his friend, Carter.

How can we be praying for YOU?



Attendance and Contribution Record

Sunday, February 27	Wednesday, March 2
Bible Classes 33	Attendance 25
AM Attendance 43	
PM Attendance 24	Contribution \$1400.00

Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



March 6, 2022

Worship Times:

- Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am
- Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am
- Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children’s Home Bradford Rd
Greenville, OH 45331
www.greenvillecoc.org

We are happy that you have chosen to worship with us today. If you are visiting, you are our honored guests and we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor’s card and let us get to know you.