

Restore Unto Me The Joy Of Salvation

No. 94

Introduction.

- I. Many centuries ago king David lived and reigned over Israel. He was a man who very close to God.
 - A. The Bible describes him as “a man after God’s own heart.” (1 Sam. 13:14).
 - B. He was a man of great confidence and joy. (Psa. 23:4; 16:10, 11).
- II. After David became king one day he let lust take control of his life. He committed adultery with Bathsheba. After David committed this terrible sin, Jehovah sent Nathan, the prophet, to David. Nathan reproved David by telling him of two men who lived in a city. One was very rich, and the other was very poor. The rich man had many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing save one ewe lamb which was very precious to him. A traveler came to visit the rich man and instead of killing one out of his flocks and herds for his visitor, he took the poor man’s lamb and dressed it for the man. Upon hearing this David’s anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said, “As Jehovah liveth, the man that hath done this is worthy to die; and he shall restore the lamb fourfold...”
 - A. **Nathan** said to David, “Thou art the man.” You are the one guilty of this hideous sin.
 - B. Upon hearing this David repented and said, “I have sinned against Jehovah.” (2 Sam. 12:1-7).
- III. Shortly after this David penned the 51st psalm which has been called “The Sinner’s Psalm.” (Psa. 51:1-12).

¹Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: According to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. ³For I know my transgressions; And my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, And done that which is evil in thy sight; That thou mayest be justified when thou speakest, And be clear when thou judgest. ⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity; And in sin did my mother conceive me. ⁶Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts; And in the hidden part thou wilt make me to know wisdom. ⁷Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸Make me to hear joy and gladness, That the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. ⁹Hide thy face from my sins, And blot out all mine iniquities. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God; And renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹Cast me not away from thy presence; And take not thy holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with a willing spirit. ASV

 - A. In this psalm David poured out his heart to God. He was broken-hearted and pleaded with God to forgive him of his sin.

- B. He cried out in verse 12, saying, **“Restore unto me the joy of salvation.”**
- C. There are **three great lessons** that stand out in this plea of David. I hope to indelibly impress these lessons on our minds and hearts.

I. **Joy In Salvation** - The first lesson is that there is joy in salvation.

A. Salvation is the most wonderful and precious thing in all the world. Nothing else can compare to it. It brings an unspeakable happiness to our lives.

1. In the closing part of Acts the 8th chapter we read the interesting narrative of the **conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch**. It is said that both he and Phillip sent down into the water and Phillip baptized him. After he came forth from the water, the inspired record states that the eunuch went on his way rejoicing. He was excited to be saved.
2. Turning to Acts the 16th chapter we find **Paul and Silas in prison at Philippi** where they had unjustly been placed because they had cast a spirit of divination out of a slave girl. As they laid on the cold prison floor, with their feet in stocks they were singing hymns to God because of the immeasurable joy that filled their hearts. At midnight, suddenly there was an earthquake that shook the foundations of the prison house and all the doors were opened. The jailer, fearing his prisoners had escaped, started to take his life, but Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.” He called for the lights and came and fell down before Paul and Silas and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Paul then spoke the word of the Lord to him that faith in Jesus might be produced. The scriptures state that the jailer and his family were baptized that very night and the jailer “rejoiced with all his house.”

B. The eunuch, Paul and Silas, and the jailer and his family were filled with joy for several reasons.

1. In the first place, they were filled with joy because **Jehovah was now their Shepherd**.
 - a. One time a **minister telephoned his sermon topic** into the religious editor of the church page. He said his sermon was, “The Lord is my Shepherd.” “Is that all?” he was asked. He replied, “That’s enough.” When the church page came out it said, “The Lord is my shepherd - That’s enough.”
 - b. How true! What greater reason could a person have for rejoicing than to know that God is his Shepherd.
 - 1) David said. (Psa. 23:1).
 - 2) Every child of God can make this statement, “Jehovah is my Shepherd.”
2. In the second place, they were filled with joy because **all their sins had been washed away**. They could go to bed at night and say, “It is well with my soul. If I arise, I will serve God. If not, I will go to be with God.” (Phil. 1:21).
3. In the third place, they were filled with joy because they knew that **all things would work**

together for good in their lives. (Rom. 8:28).

4. In the fourth place, they were filled with joy because of **promise of eternal life**.
 - a. They knew if they were faithful that they would spend eternity with God. (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 22:5).
 - b. **A woman was once dying in the poor house.** The doctor bent over and heard her whisper, "Praise the Lord." He said, "How can you praise God when you are dying in the poor house." She replied, "Ah, doctor, it's wonderful to go from the poor house to a mansion in the skies."
 - c. It is wonderful to know that we have a home in heaven and this should make us rejoice.

II. Joy Can Be Lost - A second lesson we learn from David's plea is that the joy of salvation can be lost.

- A. Though for many years David had been very close to God and had experienced the immense joy of salvation, his sin with Bathsheba destroyed that joy. The joy of David's salvation turned to tears of sorrow and regret. He said, "My sin is ever before me."
- B. One time I read of a **Christian teenage girl** who wanted very much to be accepted by her classmates. She especially wanted the boys to like her. Instead of winning dates by her personality and character, she decided the best way to get dates was to allow the boys to take liberties with her body and for a time it worked. She had dates and plenty of them. But in order to maintain the interest of her dates, she had to move the stopping place further and further until she was engaging in the grossest immorality. After a time she discovered she was going to have a baby and was not even certain which of her "friends" was the father. For a time she had been happy, but sin eventually destroyed the joy of her salvation.
- C. **Once a man, in his eighties, sent a very pathetic letter** to the Gospel Advocate Company.
 1. **He wrote**, "About 50 years ago I bought a three-dollar book from the Gospel Advocate Company. I never paid for that book. My conscience won't allow me to die without sending you the check."
 2. The man sent a check for \$5.00 which he said included interest on the \$3.00. Sin had destroyed the joy of his salvation for 50 years.
 3. Sin can destroy the joy of our salvation and can make us miserable and wretched beyond words. It can make us this way now and in the world to come.

III. Joy Can Be Restored - A third lesson we learn from David's plea is that the joy of salvation can be restored.

- A. God heard the humble cry of David and he forgave David of his sin and joy once again filled his heart. Later the jubilant David wrote the 32nd psalm in which he expressed the joy of once more being right with God. (Psa. 32:1-5).

¹**Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.** ²**Blessed is the man unto whom**

Jehovah imputeth not iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no guile. ³When I kept silence, my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long. ⁴For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: My moisture was changed as with the drought of summer. ⁵I acknowledged my sin unto thee, And mine iniquity did I not hide: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto Jehovah; And thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. ASV

B. There are many Christians today, like David of old, who have lost the joy of salvation because of sin and long for the return of this joy. I am thankful, by the grace of God, this joy can be restored.

1. This joy can be restored by **repentance and confession**. (1 Jn. 1:9).

a. This is one of the greatest promises of God. John assures us that if we confess our sins that God will forgive our sins and remember them no more.

b. The realization of this fact should cause our hearts to be jubilant once again.

2. **Joy can also be restored by service**. The greatest joys of life come from helping and serving others. The Christian life is often boring to those who are self-centered, and neglect or refused to become involved with bringing others to Christ and serving the needs of others.

Conclusion.

I. There are likely some Christians present who have lost the joy of salvation. The joy you once had has turned to misery and grief. If you have lost the joy of salvation you need to get on your knees and humbly beg God's forgiveness that your joy may be restored and that you may have a home with God.

II. If you are not a Christian, and never known the joy of salvation, we urge you to come and give your life to Jesus and be baptized for the remission of your sins. Will you come as we stand and sing?