Count It All Joy!

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. Psalm 150:6

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN UNTO GOD. Philippians 4:6

Dear friend and partner,

One of the most important things in a believer’s life of faith is their attitude. Throughout the scriptures, we’re admonished to always be thankful, no matter how circumstances may presently seem or appear. Your Christian life immediately begins to spiral downward when you lose your praise and thankful heart unto the Lord. Satan is the enemy that we have to contend with in our walk of faith. For, as we read in 1 Peter 5: 8, 9: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Satan’s objective is to steal, kill, and destroy our lives (John 10: 10). He is the one that brings the tests, trials, temptations, discouragements, hindrances, worries, fears, doubts and unbelief in hopes of taking away our joy of serving the Lord. For, ...the joy of the LORD is your strength (Nehemiah 8: 10).

Have you ever noticed that when you’re hit with a trial, the first thing you usually think is, ‘Why is this happening to me? Why is God allowing this to happen? What have I done wrong to deserve this? I must not be in God’s will.’

But God instructs us that as soon as the trial hits us, we are to begin to count it all joy. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations (James 1: 2 ). Doing this will help you stay on course and stay in faith. When Satan hits you with a trial, his intent is to distract, discourage, defeat, depress, and disengage you from your pursuit of the Lord:

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness; (2 Corinthians 12:7-9) But I fear, lest by any
means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3)

You counter the devil’s attacks by praising God for what the Word says about you, and by determining to become even more committed to fulfill your mission in life to walk by faith. Your life of faith is what pleases God, as we see in Hebrews 11:6: But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

I believe that the last thing Satan expects you to do when he hits you with whatever he brings against you is for you to continually praise God and become more committed to pursue the Lord and His will for your life. When a believer is attacked with everything Satan brings against them, and they maintain their joy and gladness of heart, it helps that believer stay strong in the Lord, remain covenant minded, and on fire for God. We accomplish this by daily staying in the Word of God, keeping a bold confession of faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, and lifting our hands in praise to the Lord.

This is when the joy of the Lord will rise up from within and come out of your mouth. An excellent scriptural example of staying in faith when hit up with bad news is when Jesus’ friend, Lazarus, got sick and died before Jesus was able to minister to him. By the time Jesus arrived in Lazarus’ hometown, Lazarus was dead and buried. This is a situation in which Jesus could have lost control emotionally. Jesus was not devoid of human feelings. He had emotions, just like you do, for the scripture says, Jesus wept (John 11:35). The scripture says He was touched with the feelings of our infirmities. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus didn’t allow his emotions to control Him. When they told Jesus that Lazarus had already died and was buried, Jesus responded in thanksgiving toward God. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me (John 11:41) Because Jesus stayed in faith, God was able to raise Lazarus from the dead. Many things have happened that God never intended to happen, all because a believer got out of faith and was carried away by what they felt, saw, or heard. ...For we walk by faith, not by sight... (2 Corinthians 5:7).
Your Word of faith pastor,

**Pastor Jesse Rich**

*Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers* (3 John 2).

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