

Sermon 7/30/00
First Congregational Church Wauwatosa

WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE – JOY

FOCUS: HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL

“MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD, ALL THE EARTH:
BREAK FORTH INTO JOYOUS SONGS AND SING PRAISES.
WITH TRUMPETS AND THE SOUND OF THE HORN
MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE BEFORE THE KING, THE LORD.”

PSALM 98:4, 6

JOY

JOYFUL

JOYOUS

ONE DEFINITION FOR JOY IN THE BIBLICAL SENSE....

“THE EXPERIENCE OF JOY, AS RELATED TO PRAISE AND
THANKSGIVING IN PUBLIC WORSHIP,

OR TO THE QUIET CONFIDENCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN GOD,

OR TO THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S SAVING POWER, ...”

THE BIBLICAL WORDS EMERGING OUT OF HEBREW

OR THE OLD TESTAMENT....

IMPLY AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION

“TO BE EXCITED”

THE GREEK LANGUAGE

(PREDOMINANTLY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT...)

BRINGS OUT.....A “REAL INTENSE JOY”

IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

THE WORD JOY IS USED

AS AN INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE

AND AS A GROUP EXPERIENCE.

IT IS A QUALITY AND EMOTION

GROUND ED UPON GOD

AND DERIVED FROM GOD.

**THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT USE THE WORD OF
JOY**

FOR PRESENT LIFE AND LIFE HERE AFTER.

JOY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

IS RELATED TO THE TOTAL

NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS LIFE OF ISRAEL.

**I ENCOURAGE YOU TO GO TO YOUR BIBLE
AND FEEL THE EXPERIENCE OF JOY IN THE NOISES
AND FESTIVALS MENTIONED IN
DEUT, SAMUEL AND 1 KINGS**

THE PSALMS ARE FILLED WITH SPONTANEOUS JOY.

(AS I QUOTED INITIALLY IN PSALM 98)

THERE IS PERSONAL ADORATION EXPRESSED IN PSALMS.

**AND ISAIAH MOVES THE EXPERIENCE OF JOY
INTO THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S SALVATION
OR THE "COSMIC REJOICING" OF THE FUTURE.**

**THE NEW TESTAMENT BUILDS ON THE HEBREW TERMS FOR
JOY REFERRING TO A PERSONAL EMOTION AND AN
OCCASION FOR JOY.FEASTS OR FESTIVALS.**

**THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS (MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE)
CONNECT JOY WITH PROCLAMATION.**

AND GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM.

**----JESUS' BIRTH IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF
PROCLAMATION!**

**----JESUS ENTRY ON PALM SUNDAY
IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF JOY.**

----AND THE RESURRECTION

IS THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF JOY.

IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

JESUS ACTUALLY SPEAKS OF JOY

AND JESUS NOW LEADS THIS EXPERIENCE OF JOY

INTO A DEEP FELLOWSHIP

BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND HIMSELF.

JOY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

IS EXPRESSED IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH.

---WE READ ABOUT MIRACLES

----CONVERSION OF GENTILES

----AND SACRAMENT

PAUL USES THE GREEK WORD FOR JOY

IN THE PROGRESS IN THE FAITH

ON THE PART OF THE MEMBERS

OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

PAUL ALSO GIVES A TWIST TO JOY

COMING OUT OF SUFFERING.

AND FINALLY JOY IS A GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
IT IS MOVING AND NOT STATIC.

ULTIMATELY IT IS **LOVE**

GOD'S AND OURS

PAUL REFERENCES THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT
AND IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS CHRISTIANS
TO SHARE IN OUR DAILY JOY
IN WALKING WITH CHRIST.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5

“REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS, AGAIN BE KNOWN TO
EVERYONE. THE LORD IS NEAR.”