

LIVE WITH JOY

Mend a quarrel.

Search out a forgotten friend.

Dismiss a suspicion and replace it with trust.

Write a letter to someone who misses you.

Encourage a youth who has lost faith.

Keep a promise.

Forget an old grudge.

Examine your demands on others and vow to reduce them.

Fight for a principle.

Express your gratitude.

Overcome an old fear.

Take two minutes to appreciate the beauty of nature.

Tell someone you love them. Tell them again, and again, and again!

(Author Unknown)

Somewhere I ran across this list of things to do in order to live joyfully. Certainly life would be improved for many if we all would live this way and practice these things every day, but something is missing. God is missing! For all of the joy that these things will surely bring, it will only be a temporary joy. Solomon recognized the need to serve God, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all." (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Jesus speaks of the happiness of the servant of God in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5. Paul wrote of the spiritual kingdom, "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17). James even writes that we should count it as a joy when we suffer for doing what is right! (James 1:2-3).

Of course, the ultimate joy will be known only in faithful service to God and Jesus Christ. Ultimate joy will be the result of being shown into heaven where there will be no death, sorrow, pain, or evil whatsoever (Revelation 21:4). This joy is a reward for following the savior, "for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6), and for finishing the race, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally,

there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Are you going to receive ultimate joy?

MJW