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Church of the Lord

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오늘의 말씀

"Source of Joy"

[Ps 16:11]

You will show me the path of life; In
Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your
right hand are pleasures forevermore.

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Starting today, we will share a 7-week series on “Joy.” Today, for the first of the series, we will share a sermon titled “The Source of Joy.” In this first part of the Joy series, we will talk about the characteristics of [joy] and where it comes from.

First of all, let's define joy.

There is another word that we always confuse with the word joy. It is the word “happiness.”

Many people today truly desire this happiness and devote everything to obtaining it. But did you know that the word “happiness” is a very rare word in the Bible? I searched the word “happy” or “happiness” in the KJV, or NKJV. Surprisingly, these words are used only nine times in the entire Old and New Testaments. It is written as a word meaning blessing or simply ‘goodness’ rather than the concept of ‘happiness’ that we use.

In particular, there is no promise anywhere that God will give happiness to those who believe in Him. We want to give happiness to the people we love. We want to give everything that our loved ones like. If we could, we would buy them a nice house, a nice car, nice clothes, and give them so much good food every day until the dining table legs break.

This is the reason why God does not promise us happiness. Among the canzones, there is a song called Felicita. This song was covered by a Korean singer named Lee Yong when I was serving in the military and was very popular.

This canzone is a song sung by an Italian couple called Al Bano & Romina Power. This female singer Romina is American, but she married an Italian singer named Al Bano and they were a couple who performed as a duet. The lyrics of this song are as sweet as the love story of this couple. “Happiness is holding each other's hands and going far away / Your pure appearance among many people is happiness / Being close like chil-dren is happiness / Comfortable cushions, flowing rivers, and rainwater flowing

behind curtains is happiness / Soft lighting for a comfortable atmosphere is happiness / Our voices singing with the one I love is happiness / You can feel our love song floating in the air leaving a happy scent / You can feel the warm rays floating in the air like a happy smile..." This song is about true happiness being in very small things.

They may seem trivial, but they are all external factors. Those things are truly beautiful and make you feel happy, but that happiness comes from external circumstances. When I was pioneering a church, I heard a child sing this song with the lyrics changed like this. "Happiness is having good parents and wearing Nikes." At that time, children wearing Nike shoes were a symbol of wealth in Korea.

As such, happiness comes from external factors such as having a lot of wealth or having someone who loves you by your side. The happiness that comes with these things disappears from us the moment they disappear. That is why God does not promise us happiness.

Instead, God promises us joy. The word happiness is used nine times in the entire Bible, but the word [joy] is used 106 times. In the KJV, the two words "joy" and "joyful" are used a total of 164 times. This shows that God wants to give us joy much, much more than happiness.

Joy does not come from external circumstances, but from within us. Therefore, no matter how much our external circumstances change, no one can stop or take away the joy that flows from within us.

No environmental factor can stop or diminish this inner joy. When Jesus promised beautiful blessings to his disciples, he always promised them things that would pour out from within.

For example, let us read the words Jesus spoke during the Feast of Tabernacles.

[John 7:37~39] On the last day, that great day of the feast,

Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. (38) "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (39) But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet giv-en, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Here, Jesus said, "Out of his belly will flow rivers of living water." This verse is written as "out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water" in the KJV, and as "out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" in the NKJV. The missions that the disciples were to un-dertake in the future were all things that would be accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit. John interpreted this verse. He added a comment that this living water re-ferred to the Holy Spirit that those who believed in Jesus would receive.

So Jesus promised to pour out the Holy Spirit on his disciples even before ascended to heaven, saying this.

[Acts 1:8] "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

He poured out the Holy Spirit on the disciples so that they could do the Lord's amazing work through the love and passion that arose from within them. He promised the power that the Holy Spirit, who entered the depths of our souls through various gifts and manifestations, would pour out from within us.

Now, based on this fact, let's talk about the source of true joy that the Lord gives us, not happiness that changes constantly according to changes in circumstances.

David gives us the exact answer to this question in today's passage. It is the presence of God. Where God is, there is true joy. It flows from there.

[Ps 16:11] You will show me the path of life; In Your

presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forever-more.

David was able to always possess this joy even during the difficult and hard times when he was being chased by King Saul.

As he told his close friend Jonathan, there were even times when he felt that death was just a step away from him. However, he was able to overcome those difficult times because he always persevered to live in the presence of God.

Look at Psalm 23. He sang that when his life seemed to “walk through the valley of the shadow of death, the Lord was with him; he comforted him with his rod and his staff.”

[Ps 23:3~5] He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. (4) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. (5) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

In the famous Psalm 27, David said that the true joy of his life was to dwell in the house of the Lord, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord, and to dwell in His temple and admire Him always.

[Ps 27:1~6] A Psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? (2) When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell. (3) Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war should rise against me, In this I will be confident. (4) One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple. (5) For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock. (6) And now my head shall be lifted up

above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

On the other hand, in the New Testament, Jesus also told his disciples that their true joy was also in being with Him.

[John 15:9~11] "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. (10) "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's com-mandments and abide in His love. (11) "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

What Jesus gives us is not the same as what the world gives. When the resurrected Jesus came to his disciples, he said this.

[John 16:22~24] "Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. (24) "And in that day you will ask Me noth-ing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. (24) "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

[John 16:33] "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Just as David in the Old Testament did not lose his joy and peace despite all the trials and difficulties because he always lived in the presence of God, Jesus also told his dis-ciples that they would receive joy that no one could take away when they walked with Him.

Later, after Jesus ascended to heaven, the disciples who were left on earth were faced with tremendous persecution and trials. However, they were filled with joy that this world could never take away. This was because they all walked with Jesus with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit that He had promised.

Through Peter and John, the lame man sitting at the beautiful gate of the temple arose, and the whole city and the entire church were filled with joy. However, they were severely persecuted because of this. They were imprisoned all night, tortured, and threatened not to do anything in the name of Jesus, and then were released. However, the disciples left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing greatly that they were considered worthy of such persecution in the name of Jesus.

[Acts 5:40~42] And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beat-en them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. (41) So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were count-ed worthy to suffer shame for His name. (42) And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Who can bear such people? Who can overcome such people? Who could take away the joy that existed within them by the power of the Holy Spirit?

Paul, who later met Jesus on the road to Damascus, also experienced great persecution and trials, but no one could take his joy away. Paul and Silas were imprisoned in Pi-late's prison. Although they were imprisoned without any crime, Paul and Silas' hearts were filled only with praise and prayer toward the Lord. In the end, their prayers in the middle of the night became a channel for the salvation of many people in Philippi, and that became the reason why the Philippian church was established on this earth.

[결론]

Through this word, it became clear what we Christians should pursue. For the next seven weeks, we will share words about this joy. I want our faith to be filled with joy during this pe-riod. We should pursue the joy that the Lord gives us from within rather

than happiness that depends on external factors. To do so, we should experience His presence through the time we spend with the Lord every day, and let that joy flow into our lives.