

Light and Joyfulness

by Andrew Murray

The sermon emphasizes that true joy comes from a relationship with Jesus and living in His light, free from sin and unbelief.

Scripture: Psalm 89:15

Topics: "Walking in the Light", "Joy in God"

Description

Andrew Murray emphasizes the connection between light and joy in the life of a believer, illustrating that true joy comes from walking in the light of God's presence. He explains that God desires His children to be joyful, as joy reflects satisfaction in Him and serves as a testimony to others. Murray points out that sin and unbelief can lead to darkness, but through confession and faith in Jesus, believers can experience the light and joy that He offers. He encourages Christians to rejoice in the Lord always, as true joy is found in following Jesus and living by faith. Ultimately, joy in God is a mark of obedience and a reflection of His love and glory in our lives.

Transcript

"Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of Thy countenance. In Thy name shall they rejoice all the day" Psalm 89:15,16.

"Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart" Psalm 97:11.

"I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" John 8:12.

"I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you" John 16:22.

"As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing" 2 Corinthians 6:10.

A father will always be eager to see his children joyful. He does all that he can to make them happy. Likewise, God also desires that His children should walk before Him with a joyful heart. He has promised them joy--He will give it.¹ He has commanded it--we must take it and walk in it at all times.²

The reason for this is not difficult to find. Joy is always the evidence that something really satisfies me and has great value for me. Joy, more than anything else, recommends its cause to others. And joy in God is the strongest proof that I have in God what satisfies and satiates me. It shows that I do not serve Him with

dread, or remain faithful only because He is my salvation. Joy is the mark of the truth, the worth of obedience, and shows whether I have pleasure in the will of God.³ It is for this reason that joy in God is so acceptable to Him, so strengthening to believers themselves and to all who are exposed to the most eloquent testimony of what we think of God.⁴

In the Scriptures, light and joy are frequently connected with each other.⁵ It is so in nature. The joyful light of the morning awakens the birds to their song and gladdens the watchers who, in the darkness, have longed for the day. It is the light of God's countenance that gives the Christian his joy. In fellowship with his Lord, he can, and always will, be happy. The love of the Father shines like the sun on His children.⁶ When darkness comes over the soul, it is always through one of two things--through sin or through unbelief. Sin is darkness and makes life dark. Unbelief also makes life dark, for it turns us from Him, who alone is the light.

The question is sometimes asked, "Can the Christian always walk in the light?" The answer of our Lord is clear, "He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness." It is sin, the turning from Jesus to our own way, that makes darkness. But at the moment we confess sin, and have it cleansed in the blood, we are again in the light.

Other times it is unbelief that causes darkness. When we look to ourselves and our strength, when we seek comfort in our own feelings, or our own works, then all becomes dark. As soon as we look to Jesus, to the fullness--the perfect provision for our needs that is in Him--all is light. He says, "I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." So long as I believe, I have light and joy.⁸

Christians, who want to walk according to the will of the Lord, hear what His Word says, "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. Rejoice in the Lord always: again, I will say, Rejoice."⁹ In the Lord Jesus there is unspeakable joy--full of glory. Believing in Him, rejoice in this. Live the life of faith. That life is salvation and glorious joy. A heart that gives itself undividedly to follow Jesus, that lives by faith in Him and His love, will have light and joy. Therefore, soul, only believe. Do not seek joy--in that case you will not find it, because you are seeking feeling. But seek Jesus, follow Jesus, believe in Jesus, and joy will be given to you. "Ye see him not, yet believing, rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8).

Lord Jesus, You are the Light of the world, the radiance of the unapproachable light, in whom we see the light of God. From Your countenance radiates upon us the illumination of the knowledge of the love and glory of God. And You are ours, our light and our salvation. Teach us to believe more firmly that with You we can never walk in the darkness. Let joy in You be the proof that You are all to us and our strength to do all that You would have us do. Amen.

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