



Thursday, February 26, 2026
Foundations for the Believer to Live the Spiritual Life.

The Transformed Life.

1. The Purpose-Directed Life, Phil 3:1-16, (continued).

To live the Purpose-Directed Life we need to have the right goal(s) in life, as Paul had, **Phil 3:14, “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”**

God’s desire and goal in saving us is not just heaven. It is to make us like His Son. He wants to conform us into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. As that occurs, all the other aspects of God’s will fall into place to the degree we are experiencing His life in ours. Cf. **1 Cor 14:20; Eph 4:11-16; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 2:2; Heb 5:11-6:1.**

1 Peter 2:2, “Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”

Heb 6:1, “Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God.”

1 Cor 14:20, “Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be babes, but in your thinking be mature.”

1 Peter 1:14-16, “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, ¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; ¹⁶because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.””

Having God’s Joy and Peace is a consequence of the Purpose-Directed Life.

Isa 26:3-4, “The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in You. ⁴Trust in the LORD forever, for in GOD the LORD, *we have an everlasting Rock.*”

A consequence of having God’s purpose as your goal is a life of Peace and Joy even in the midst of trials and tribulations. When Christ was about to be Crucified, He prepared His disciples for His departure and absence. He instructed them regarding their purpose in the world, **John 13-16**. In a few hours before the Lord Jesus went to the Cross to pay for our sins, so that we might have Peace with God and know the peace of God, He made this exhortation in **John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”**

Later, Paul writing to the Galatians in **Gal 5:22**, we are given the characteristic traits of the Fruit of the Spirit. The second and third are Joy and Peace, right after Love. It teaches that when we are experiencing His life within ours (the Christlike life) we are going to experience Joy and Peace along with other Christlike qualities even in the midst of pain and suffering.

Gal 5:22-24, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Unfortunately, many Christians seem to have little Joy or Peace in their lives. A reason for that is they are looking to the world and worldly things to provide Joy and Peace. Yet, in Christ's message He clearly noted, "**not as the world gives do I give to you.**" We too often seek our Joy and Peace from that which the world gives rather than from the Savior who provides real, true, and lasting Peace and Joy. And His is provided in a very different way and from a very different source.

The Joy and Peace from God, (a.k.a., +H or Sharing the Happiness of God), constitutes part of the fruit of a life that is experiencing God and the spiritual transformation that He works within us at the core of our being. This happens when He is truly the source of our trust. As such, Joy and Peace become barometers of how well we are Faith-Resting or trusting in Him for all the facets of our life, **Isa 26:3**. It is like taking our temperature. As a fever is indicative of an illness, so is the absence of God's Joy and Peace an indication that something is wrong in our spiritual life. If that is the case, we need the prescribed remedy of God's Word and the Filling of the Holy Spirit for healing from the Great Physician, cf. **Psa 32-4; 56:3-4; Heb 12:15**.

Psa 56:3-4, "When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. ⁴In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can *mere* man do to me?"

Psa 32:3-4, "When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away *as* with the fever heat of summer. Selah."

Heb 12:15, "See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled."

Interestingly, "**Joy**" is found seven times and "**peace**" three times in the book of Philippians, as it is a very important concept.

Phil 4:6-7, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians shows us how to know Joy and Peace, as we walk down the path of life with its many ups and downs, its blessings and afflictions, and its pleasures and pain. Knowing we have such a glorious identity in Christ is obviously a cause for great Joy and the source of true Peace, but so often Christians fail to experience true Joy and Peace, **Phil 1:4, 18, 25; 2:28-29; 3:1; 4:1, 4, 7-9**.

Phil 1:4, 18, 25, "Always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,... ¹⁸What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.... ²⁵And convinced of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith."

Phil 2:28-29, "Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly in order that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. ²⁹Therefore receive him in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard."

Phil 3:1, "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things *again* is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you."

Phil 4:1, "Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, so stand firm in the Lord, my beloved."

Phil 4:4, 7-9, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ... ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. ⁹The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.”

Biblically, as we noted in **Phil 3:8-15**, Joy and Peace are related to the pursuit of the right goal, one that is to become the all-consuming goal of the believer’s life, which results in experiencing Christ’s Joy and Peace. That goal is an upward, heavenward call. It includes our spiritual transformation through knowing Christ intimately and the power of His resurrection that we might be made like Him being conformed to His death and resurrection; passing through death into new life. With this we capture the coveted prize, having intimate knowledge of our Lord in personal relationship with Him. It then results in being in His presence at the BEMA Seat to receive the awards He will give to that believer on that day, cf. **2 Tim 4:6-8**. Remember Paul was not living to gain heaven by his works, but to receive the prize of knowing the power of Christ’s life in his daily life, with a view to the eternal rewards that would follow. The goal of the apostle was to live daily in view of the resurrection **vs. 11**.

One of the essence or characteristics that make up God is that He is happy. God is perfect; therefore, His essence is composed of only perfect attributes. One of His perfect attributes is His perfect happiness. Therefore, when we know God and excel in our personal relationship with Him, we too have His perfect Happiness, Joy, and Peace, **Psa 16:11**.

Psa 16:11, “You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.”

The more you grow spiritually, the more you will experience the Happiness of God.

When you depend on the circumstances of life for your happiness, it is inevitable that spiritually you will fail miserably and become a believer that loses out on rewards. People who can make you happy temporarily can also make you unhappy. If circumstances make you happy, then adverse circumstances will make you unhappy.

Mat 13:21, “Yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.”

If the thrill of the chase is your basis for happiness, when you make the catch your happiness will slip away. If your success in competing with others is your source of happiness, then you have a false happiness, which is very quickly lost. All the forms of pseudo happiness in this life will never be satisfying to the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, God has provided a happiness in the soul which is far greater than the pseudo happiness of life.

John 15:11, “I have taught you these things that My happiness might be in you, and that your happiness might be fulfilled.”

Prov 3:13, “Happiness belongs to the person who finds wisdom (*faith application of God’s Word*), even to the person who gains understanding (*faith perception of the Word of God*).”

Luke 11:28, “But He (*Jesus Christ*) said, “On the contrary, blessed (*Happy*) are those who hear the word of God and observe it.” Cf. Mat 5:3-13.