

Rejoicing With Joy Unspeakable and Full of Glory

As I've been writing this book my frustration has been mounting that I haven't been properly expressing the joy that comes with "Christ Who is Your Life", nor how His glory continues to take my breath away. So, I'm stopping to pray for His inspiration before resuming.

In 1 Peter Chapter 1, as he blessed God for His great mercy that has caused us to be born again unto a living hope through the resurrection of His son Jesus Christ, Peter says "and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls." Some translations use the word unspeakable instead of inexpressible.

I think Peter said it much better than I could and I'm grateful for that. We don't see Jesus with our eyes now, yet through God's mercy we have come to love Him, and in that there is joy we can't really describe but that nevertheless is full of glory.

The apostle Paul also spoke of the joy and glory that come through the New Covenant ministry. After describing the New Covenant ministry in 2 Corinthians 3 he says:

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in trickery nor distorting the word of God, but by the open proclamation of the truth commending ourselves to every person's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled among those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants on account of Jesus. For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen containers, so that the extraordinary greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying around in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who live are constantly being handed over to death because of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our mortal flesh. So death works in us, but life in you.

But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written: "I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I SPOKE," we also believe, therefore we also speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, so that grace, having multiplied through the many, will cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For our momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Corinthians 4)

At times it seems the apostle John was also searching for words. He too spoke of the joy that comes through fellowship with the Father and with His Son:

"That which was from *the* beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our eyes, that which we have gazed upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—and the life was made manifest, and we have seen and bear witness, and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was revealed to us— that which we have seen and have heard, we proclaim to you also, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And indeed our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. And these things we write, so that our joy might be complete. (1 John 1-4)

I mean, who starts a sentence with "that which"? I'll leave it at that for now and look to the Holy Spirit to fill in for you what I can't say, hoping that you too are rejoicing with joy unspeakable and full of glory.