

**1 Thessalonians 5:16; Hebrews 12:2**

**WINDOWS INTO SANCTIFICATION:**

**JOY EVERY MORNING?**

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***JOY THAT FLOWS FROM CHRIST'S JOY RISES NEW EVERY MORNING***

**ONE: Jesus is the founder of our faith:** godly joy is based upon events of Jesus' incarnation, atoning death and bodily resurrection & ascension.

*Foundational* Truth, Events: Luke 2.10-11, Jude 1.24-25

**TWO: Jesus is the perfecter of our faith:** godly joy flows from an ever richer fellowship with the Father and his Son, Jesus Christ

*Growing* Experience, Relationship: Gal 5:22; 1 Peter 1:8; John 15:11

**THREE: Jesus gives us a place and portion in his joy:** godly joy moves us to an obedience full of longing for mercy, justice and the welfare of all those around us.

*Visible* Engagement, Obedience, Justice: Heb 12:2; James 1:2; Phil 2:1; Rom 12:15

**Questions for thought/discussion/prayer?**

1. To stir your joy what would aid you best now: (a) more focus on the glorious reality of Christ's foundational work? (b) more focus on heart commitment to and joy in your living fellowship in his love, OR (c) more joyful stepping out to show care and seek mercy and justice for neighbors?
2. In the light of godly joy, interact with these words of A.W. Tozer:  
I cannot help but believe that in our generation there is a great, concealing cloud over much of the fundamental, gospel church which has practically shut off our consciousness of the smiling face of God.  
Textualism, a system of rigid adherence to words, has largely captured the church, with the language of the New Testament still being used but with the Spirit of the New Testament grieved.  
The doctrine of verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, for instance, is still held, but in such a way that its illumination and life are gone and rigor mortis has set in. As a result religious yearning is choked down, religious imagination has been stultified and religious aspiration smothered....  
It is glorious knowledge indeed that the smiling face of God is turned toward us. Why, then, do we not capture the wondrous, divine illumination of our Savior, Jesus Christ? Why do we not know the divine fire in our own souls? Why do we not strive to sense and experience the knowledge of exhilaration of reconciliation with God?  
Let me tell you why—it is because there is between us and the smiling face of God a cloud of concealment....  
I believe the smiling face of God is always turned toward us—but the cloud of concealment is of our own making....  
What is the answer to this growing list of cloud-forming attitudes? I think it is the willingness to put the cloud which is above us under our feet by faith and through grace!