



BOOK *of* JOHN

TRANSFORMING TRIALS TO JOY

JOHN 16:16-33

This section concludes the final words of Jesus to His disciples prior to His final prayer; followed by His arrest, trial, torture, and crucifixion.

- This would not naturally be a setting in which one might expect to find joy; the 11 disciples were surely not experiencing much joy.
- ***God's joy principle***: God brings joy to our lives, not by ***substitution***—good for evil—but by ***transformation***—trials to triumph.

MATURITY vs. IMMATURITY

No one escapes pain through trials in this life; this is a truth. The question is what will you do when they come?

- The way of substitution for solving problems is the way of flesh and immaturity.
- The way of transformation is the way of faith and maturity.
- God takes seemingly impossible painful situations, adds a miracle or two of His grace, and transforms trial into triumph, sorrow into joy. **Deut. 23:5; Neh. 13:1-3**

WE ALL HAVE QUESTIONS ONLY GOD CAN ANSWER!

Example: What did Jesus mean in this passage? This week, this month, next year, at the return of the Lord?

- Instead of ***asking Jesus to explain His words***, the men began to discuss it among themselves, embarrassed to admit their ignorance.
- You won't get very far by exchanging your ignorance with somebody else who also does not know!
- ***Take time to go to the Lord*** through His Word and ask for the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth to you.

THE PRINCIPLES AND PROMISES v. 23-28

The central theme here is prayer: *“Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” v. 24*

- Jesus mentioned prayer many times in His ministry and He had set the example for prayer in His own life.
- Today the chief way we can instantly hear from and learn about the Father is studying the Word of God.
- George Müller said: *“Prayer was not overcoming God’s reluctance to answer, but understanding God’s willingness His way.”* ***God promises to answer prayer!***

THE JOY OF OUR NEW POSITION v. 29-33

The disciples suddenly moved out of their spiritual stupor and made a tremendous affirmation of faith.

- Jesus preached this message so that the disciples would have peace in a time of trouble.
- We need to claim that peace (the position of peace because we are forgiven) by the grace of the Cross.
- The trials they were about to face would lead to everlasting peace, eternal peace . . . and joy.

Be of “good cheer,” we win because He won!

The Cup of Joy, our victory celebration!

