

Living in the JOY of His Salvation

Psalm 52:12

August 2014

By Philip Shields

www.LightontheRock.org

All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

Summary:

King David recorded his prayer of repentance for us and in Psalm 51:12 asks for “the joy of Your Salvation” to be restored to him, after he had killed Uriah and committed adultery with Uriah’s wife. Are you and I living in the sheer joy of our Father’s salvation? Why do so many of God’s children seem so joyless about our salvation and so dour? What is robbing us of our joy of salvation? How do we get that joy in the first place, or have it restored – if we’ve lost it? Whose joy is it? But we all sin – so how can we have any joy of being saved? You’ll find all this and more in this latest message about our wonderful Abba and our Savior.

.....
(I recommend you print out the Notes and have them as you follow along with the audio, simultaneously. You’ll get much more out of the message that way. There are things in the audio not in the notes, and vice versa. Remember I often call our heavenly Father “Abba” and I usually refer to Jesus Christ by the Hebrew name he was given -- Yeshua the Messiah. May you be blessed in today’s teaching and sharing of God’s spirit.)

This message builds on the previous two sermons.

Welcome - welcome to Light on the Rock, my friends and family in our Master. Let’s ask Abba’s blessing and for Yeshua to join us.

Opening prayer – on audio.

I suspect God’s Spirit brought you to this sermon, on this day, because for many of you, it’s about to change your entire life and your relationship with Abba and Yeshua. I know that’s a bold statement, surprising even me, but my heart was pushing me real hard to say that just now.

Don’t you just love hearing your children and grandchildren laugh and play together? When you see them having fun together, and hear their laughter – my heart sings. Certainly if they’re laughing while I’m holding them, or telling them my goofy bedtime stories, I gotta tell ya: I just love it when I know they are in relationship with me and I am with them.

It’s the same thing with your husband or wife. When everything’s alright in my relationship with my wife, life is good. There’s a joy and it’s FUN when we’re as one and in harmony with each other. I love having a good time with my best friend and wife of 39 years. I love it when we’re LAUGHING together. But I hate it when there’s unhappiness. Or if she feels she’s really goofed up and that I’m unhappy with her. So now I do all I can to make her realize I’m OK with things (took me many years to grow up in this area, though).

Isn’t God our Father the same? Does he really want you coming before him all the time “in fear and trembling”? Do you really think so? We’ll talk about that later in the message. I suspect many of you have never experienced the real joy in our Abba’s salvation.

JOY – when connected to PEOPLE or even with God himself – has everything to do with **how each FEELS about that relationship**, as a result of how we conduct ourselves with each other. If you feel loved and accepted by the other, you’ll more likely also feel joy when you’re around that person. That’s why I have had the previous sermons about our loving Abba, and how he feels about us – before this sermon.

When there’s respect for each other, and we care about each other, and do things that show honor, obedience and respect for the other -- there’s JOY when you think of that person or Being.

But the one with the greatest love and joy is God the Father (Abba) himself. NONE of us has even come CLOSE – though we have his spirit – none of us comes even close to the love of God for us: that knowing you and me even better than we know ourselves, He STILL loves you and me! “WHILE we were yet sinners, he forgave us” (**Romans 5:8**).

In most cases, parents’ love for their children is going to be much, much deeper and profound than the children could ever muster for their parents. God’s the same way.

For example, (Luke 15) when **the prodigal son’s father** saw the son far away still, the Dad (representing GOD in the story) sprinted to his “bad” son. He couldn’t wait to see him up close and hold him. Did you hear my last sermon and the song “When God Ran”? I recommend you buy that cd. The father was SO glad to see him back home again (Luke 15). And remember the father ran to the son before he had even had heard a single word of repentance which the son had planned to say! This is how Abba feels about us when we even just begin to turn around. He throws a party and invites the neighborhood to share in HIS joy.

You see, the joy of salvation is HIS joy that we’re all sharing in, as we’ll see more and more. His joy is the deepest, the most profound and it spills over to all of us.

Today’s message centers on the sentence “**restore to me the joy of your salvation**”, which comes from Psalm 51:12, a little past halfway through David’s prayer of repentance. David – a man after God’s own heart – knew JOY. And what he was going through as he breathed out those words was not something he wanted one more minute of!

KING DAVID HAD goofed up - - super big time sins. He had killed someone’s husband in his treacherous cover-up after he had forced the man’s wife to his bed and gotten her pregnant! You know the story of David and Bathsheba, right? (2 Samuel 11). And the subsequent confrontation with God’s prophet Nathan in 2 Samuel 12, right? Well, in David’s prayer of repentance in Psalm 51, he has this POWERFUL line as he realizes he’s lost the JOY of salvation he once had.

And David was the one responsible; the one at fault. The Bible nowhere even hints Bathsheba incited this. However, she also committed adultery – and so *both* David and Bathsheba should have been stoned (Lev. 20:10) but in David’s repentance, they were forgiven. And actually, even out of this tragedy came the future line of the Messiah. So in his DEEP repentance, this is what David said – Psalm 51:11-12 – from the Holman version:

Psalms 51:11-12

*“Do not banish me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.
12 **RESTORE THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION TO ME**, and give me a willing spirit.”*

Now, how about you? David wanted the joy restored. He had experienced great joy over being saved before. Have you and I ever even experienced such great joy over our salvation? Actually it’s the joy of HIS salvation. Have you felt that? Really? Phrase it another way: are you overflowing with JOY knowing you have been SAVED by the Son of God? Do you ever even really think about being saved? DO you?

What’s your relationship like with our dear Abba? And how about with Yeshua (Jesus)? Are you happy with God? Do you feel he is happy with you? I often ask myself if Abba feels about me the way I feel when my grandsons are running up to me. I sure hope so.

Many of us from northwestern European stock may have trouble expressing great joy. I hope this message today will help.

Our God is a Happy God, full of joy

For starters, let’s make something clear: God Almighty is a very, very happy Being. Now I know- honestly – most of us don’t see Him that way. Satan’s done a good job of painting him as glued to a chair with a big frown on his face. QUESTION: in your heart of hearts, what do you think Abba is like? Do you “see Him” as often laughing, cheerful, even at times – funny? Would he be fun to be around? How do you see Him? Sheer joy – or B-O-R-I-N-G?

1 Timothy 1:11 speaks of “**the glorious good news (gospel) of the blessed God**”. The word for “blessed” there in Greek is *makarios* – and is usually translated “blessed”, but it has a deeper meaning of one who is deeply HAPPY, contented, at peace. It’s the same word for “blessed” used in the Beatitudes. Our God is a very happy Being. **He’s the happy God.** Let that sink in! How could we even be expected to be happy if the One who wants to spend forever, eternity, with us is unhappy! He isn’t. He’s a HAPPY being. So start with a new picture of God our Father and Yeshua -whom you may know as Jesus. He’s NOT always seeking whom He can blast into oblivion – as some people seem to believe.

David, a man after God’s own heart, says this about being in God’s presence:

Psalms 16:11

*“You will show me the path of life; In **Your presence is fullness of joy**;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

Do you know your Abba the way David did – fullness of joy? I suspect not.

WHAT ABOUT coming before God “WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING”?

We’ve been told that God relishes somehow having his children appear before him “with fear and trembling”, and there ARE some verses that do say that. “To this man will I look, to him who is of a contrite heart, and who **trembles** at my word” (**Isaiah 66:2**).

But in context, if you keep reading, God is castigating his people for making a show out of worship. They were mocking God even as they appeared to be worshipping him. In that context, God is saying – “come to me with a humble, repentance HEART – and show RESPECT for my Word!” Those words are being said to a very disrespectful nation.

But for all those who are CHILDREN of God, He wants us coming boldly, without terror and fear (see 1 John 4:17-19), for perfect love casts out fear. I would never want my children or grandchildren literally quivering in fear in my presence! Never – unless I was about to blot them out of existence! Nor does God want that.

Abba wants us to know, as his dear children, that we should expect “the fullness of JOY and pleasures forevermore” in his presence (Psalm 16:11). How can we have fullness of joy and be shaking and trembling in terror at the same time? So there has to be something more to this phrase “fear and trembling.”

To HIS children, for being in the presence of God is “the fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore” AS David teaches us in Psalm 16:11. You can’t have fullness and joy and be literally trembling in terror. So there has to be something more to this.

Let me ask you – even you ministers who like to preach these verses about fear and trembling – when YOU study the word of God, do YOU literally tremble? I know of NO ONE who does. NO one. And I’d wonder if they were literally trembling as they read God’s words. Now, if you realize you need badly to repent, as you read God’s word, in that specific instance, you may literally be trembling if you see how much you’ve been doing wrong. King Josiah and his court had such a moment. **You can read about it in 2 Kings 22.**

But do you not realize this expression “fear and trembling” is a metaphor for having deep and profound respect for God and His Word? This phrase is used a lot in the Bible. **It’s an expression**, according to some who have deeply studied it, meaning to “have deep awe and respect.”

Otherwise, some of the places that phrase is used make little sense. And the fact we can read the phrase “fear and trembling” all through the Bible shows it was an expression!

Psalm 2:11 – “Serve YHVH with FEAR, and rejoice with trembling.”

How can you rejoice if you literally were shaking in your boots because you’re so afraid? It would be ridiculous to expect rejoicing in the same breath as literal shaking. For that matter, who among you EVER trembles as you rejoice before your Maker? That’s what I thought. None of you. But ministers will preach this, even though they themselves aren’t doing it, and neither does it mean to literally tremble in fear. What David is really saying is “Serve YHVH with awe; rejoice with deep respect.”

In context, Psalm 2 is speaking to those who are in rebellion and need to repent and turn around. Read it for yourself. In this instance, they need to repent and fear where they are now.

Another example: Paul tells the Corinthians in **1 Cor. 2:3** that he was with them “in weakness, **in fear and much trembling**.” Again, I don’t see that as being literal. The

Paul I read about was not trembling in front of the Corinthians, though he was showing them a great deal of respect. It was an expression.

A couple more examples: **2 COR. 7:5**, Paul recounts how TITUS was so impressed how the Corinthians received him “with fear and trembling”. All Paul is saying is that they received him with profound respect. It was an expression.

Now here’s a favorite: **Philippians 2:12** – “Work out your own salvation *with fear and trembling*”. Now are you getting it? Salvation, or being saved, is JOYOUS. It goes on to say in verse 13 WHY we are to look at our salvation with such profound awe and respect: “for it is GOD who works in you, both to will and to do.” So no wonder we are to look at our salvation with so much respect! God – who is our Savior – is the one bringing our salvation about, according to verse 13.

JOY in the CHURCH

So is it any wonder then that we aren’t seeing more JOY among God’s people? Frankly some of the most DOUR-looking people on the planet are “church folks”. Let’s face it. They might light up when they see their friends coming – but do we light up the same way when we hear our sins are forgiven and we have been saved from death by Jesus Christ? **The name Jesus, or Yeshua in Hebrew, is hardly even mentioned in some circles!**

Remember again, we’re talking about the joy of SALVATION... not just joy per se. The Joy of being saved. David wanted that joy restored for him because he had lost it.

Part of the reason we’re so dour is we tend to like to beat up on ourselves and focus on the hard side of the Almighty. In fact **Romans 11:22** speaks of “**the goodness and the SEVERITY of God**”. We are promised His goodness in that passage if we continue in HIS goodness; otherwise we can be cut off. And I have experienced some of his severity, but much more of his goodness. So I’m not preaching a cream-puff God. I’m NOT. But some of you can’t experience the joy of salvation because your view of God just won’t possibly allow it!!! So we need to learn from King David and pray for it to be given to us or restored to us.

Nehemiah 12:43—while dedicating the new Jerusalem wall, “***they rejoiced, for GOD made them rejoice with great joy***; the women and children also rejoiced so that *the joy in Jerusalem was heard afar off*.”

Have we experienced that kind of joy around spiritual times? This kind of joy comes only from GOD. Remember that as we go along. He likes joy. Yeshua even used the language “enter the JOY of your Lord” (Matthew 25:31) – in reference to the kingdom of God.

This joy of salvation is NOT the kind of joy you WORK UP, or STRIVE FOR. NO, brethren. *This kind of joy is something you FEEL bubbling up inside when you understand what has just happened to you! You’ve been saved from the 2nd death! You have a Savior!*

Do you have to work up a feeling of joy when your home team scores the winning touchdown or goal? If you got a \$25,000 bonus out of the blue, would you have to work up a feeling of joy? If you were on death row for a terrible crime (and we were all on God’s

death row) and were told you could leave death row now because all charges have been dropped – though you were guilty – would you have to strive for joy?

But some like to say we have to *strive* to have this joy. That is kinda like the sign on the Pirate ship: “*Beatings will continue until morale improves.*” OK, you laugh – but so many church services feel like that: a beating, or just pabulum. But either way, there’s little or no exciting REAL JOY.

Now, let’s look at King David again. He knew how to worship in JOY. When the ark was being brought back to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:12-15), he danced and sang for great joy “with all his might”. David was a man of deep passion and emotions.

Question: Would you have joined David in his joyful celebration of God’s ark coming back to Jerusalem? Would you and I have hopped in and joined in shouting praises to our God, singing, dancing, blowing on shofars (rams’ horns) – or would we feel those people were making a spectacle of themselves?

You know your answer by what you do now. Many of you won’t even express joy to Abba by so much as lifting your hands in prayer, when there are examples galore in all the Bible of that, so why would you and I think we’d DANCE, or SHOUT? For this matter of raising holy hands in prayer – see 1 Timothy 2:8; Psalms 28:2; 134:2; 141:2; Nehemiah 8:6; 1 Kings 8:22-23 among many more. So please - - don’t call it anything but Biblical.

David knew how to worship with great joy. There are so MANY verses that speak of shouting for JOY in our worship, knowing we’ve been SAVED and are guarded by our Savior.

Here are but a few:

Psalm 5:11 – Let them shout for JOY, because you defend them;

Psalm 32:11 – shout for joy, all you upright

Psalm 95:1-2 – “Let us SHOUT joyfully TO THE ROCK of our salvation.”

Have you EVER, even just a single time, in worship at home or at church, SHOUTED out “Hallelu Yah!”? Ever? Scripture tells us to, but there will be ministers too dignified for this who will label it all “Pentecostal” or “charismatic” nonsense. Tell David that. No, tell GOD that. HE’s the one who inspired David, a man after God’s own heart, to write that. Are you with me? Do you see that?

Anyway, David had tremendous joy in worshiping God. **Then he committed a series of horrible sins that robbed him and others of that joy they once had.** It took him a while to come to his senses – maybe even years – but when Nathan the prophet confronted him, he acknowledged his sins and began to see how far he had fallen from the sheer joy he once had.

David wanted joy restored

David had many big sins. Many. But in God’s eyes, the one big black stain on David’s record with God was “the matter of Uriah” (1 Kings 15:5). Scripture does not say “the matter with Bathsheba.” That first sin of adultery was one of hormones gone amuck, David lusted, David gave in; he wasn’t thinking with his head – and sinned. **That’s all in 2**

Samuel 11. That sin resulted in a baby being conceived and Bathsheba’s husband ended up *dead* to try to cover up the sin. The baby grows – and is described as “a child” by the time Nathan comes to see David. The baby is probably now at least 3-4 years old or older, when Nathan shows up. The palace gossip on Facebook of their day was going nuts. Everyone had heard about it and God’s name was even being blasphemed because of it. If it had happened today, someone would have had a video of it that had gone viral!

In 2 Samuel 12 – if you’re not familiar with the story you can read it – Nathan the prophet confronts David with this story of the rich man who killed his neighbor’s one and only little lamb instead of one of his own sheep. David says the man should die – whereupon Nathan says “YOU ARE that man” who did it! David acknowledges his sin now – but with consequences: the baby would die 7 days later, there would be infighting in his own household the rest of his life and 10 of his concubines would be ravished on the palace roof, where the whole sin began (**2 Samuel 16:20-22**).

Bathsheba’s grandfather – Ahitophel the wise counselor – was so hateful to David after all that happened with Uriah, that by the time of Absalom’s rebellion, Ahitophel wanted to kill David himself! (**See 2 Samuel 17:1-2**). “I will strike him...” Anyway, all that mess with Uriah was indeed a MESS. So after Nathan the prophet confronted David, he repented deeply for a whole week and we have his prayer of repentance recorded and saved for us by God’s spirit.

In Psalm 51, David starts with no joy but ends up expressing tons of JOY.

But before we go into the Psalm 51 prayer of repentance and then the joy of salvation, let’s analyze – WHAT ROBS us of the joy of salvation.

WHAT ROBS OUR JOY

TRUE joy is part of the FRUIT of the HOLY SPIRIT (Galatians 5:22). There are many gifts of the spirit but one fruit. We read “the fruit (not fruits) of the spirit IS...” and then it lists the manifold parts of the one fruit, summed up by love. Like an apple – has a stem, skin, pulp, seeds, and juice and so on. But it’s all one apple. “The fruit of the spirit IS...”. Remember that. JOY is part of that fruit.

Here are some of the points that reveal what can and does rob of us of our joy:

---NOT FULLY AND DEEPLY comprehending you’ve been saved from certain death. For too many of us, “salvation” has become just a doctrine – and not our REALITY. Until you and I realize we’ve been saved from certain death, we won’t experience the joy of salvation. I’m giving this sermon because I want to learn more about this “joy of salvation” as well. But until it becomes your reality, you won’t have this joy.

The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:33). When we call out in repentance, accepting the name of Yeshua as our Savior, we will be forgiven and saved. If we don’t repent, we are surely still in our sins and will surely perish (Luke 13:3).

Romans 10:9-11

“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one

believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

You and I were TRULY lost – and now have been found. We were as good as dead, but now in Christ we live again. We’ve heard about it, we’ve sung about it, we kinda know it – but I ask: ***DO we really realize HOW lost we were,*** and how in need of saving we were? Stop for a second and honestly ask yourself that. A person who knows he is truly lost – and then is found before it’s too late, and his/her life is spared -- will experience ecstatic JOY! I think this is a big key.

Story: hunting and being lost (hear the audio for the story). How happy I was when I came to a road and someone stopped and took me to a camp (before cell phones).

Let’s not sugar-coat God. We have to repent and respond to God looking for us and leading us to repentance. He is a loving God, but is also a just God. He has laws and the penalty of breaking any of his laws is the 2nd death (**Romans 6:23**). *I’m not sugarcoating any of that. You were a condemned person once.* Again, I think for many of us it’s something we hear about in church once in a while – but I don’t think many of us have deeply *felt that* condemned state in our hearts!

And then Jesus – the awesome CREATOR Himself, the one who created ALL THINGS – became a human being and took all the condemnation and wrath of God for sin, upon himself. But we have to repent, call on Yeshua to save us, to be our Savior – and since that is what his name means, he was more than happy to! That’s why he came to earth: to save you.

I’ve spoken several times of the woman who came to Jesus while he was having lunch at a Pharisee’s home. She wept and washed his feet with her tears. Yeshua acknowledged she was a terrible sinner. ***The Savior knew it – and the sinner knew it. He says, “her sins, WHICH ARE MANY, are forgiven”.*** Someone who knows they’ve been forgiven a lot, will also love God a lot. **See Luke 7:40-50, especially verse 47.** This lady no doubt left with great peace and even JOY for being saved.

Are YOU in that category of people who realize how GREAT your salvation has been?

Discuss: Those LIBERATED after WWII – GREAT JOY in the streets. I’ve seen the videos of sheer JOY. They knew they were in bondage. They knew they were now being saved – and there was great joy.

POINT #2: YOU WILL HAVE MORE OF THIS JOY the more you focus on the CAPTAIN and LEADER of our salvation – Jesus Christ, or Yeshua the Messiah as I prefer. You will LOSE much of this joy if you focus on all your failures, imperfections and sins after you have repented and accepted Yeshua.

Too many feel, since they realize they still sin and are imperfect – that God is not happy with them; is finding fault with them. SO how can you be happy about salvation if you’re sure God doesn’t like you now because you’re still so imperfect. (I recommend you hear the sermon “DO you lose God’s love when you sin?”—the sermon just before this one).

So we have to understand that though God has given us **a new nature**, one that now loves him and his way, we still have the OLD other nature of sin and death in us that doesn’t like God. **That’s why there’s a war in our hearts (Galatians 5:16-18)**. One nature is fighting the other. When the old nature wins – we’re sinning and we’re robbed of joy. When the new nature is winning – we’re growing and overcoming and changing and having joy that comes with that. Which nature is most alive in you? WHICH Nature do you see? As Paul says at the end of Romans 7—who will deliver me from this body of death?

[These notes on this point vary a slight bit from the audio – but I wanted this part to be very clear.]

We no longer want to hate, but sometimes we do. We don’t want to lust, but sometimes we do. We don’t want to misuse our tongue – but we do. You repented of it, but you still sometimes do the sins of nature. (In the Audio I discuss how we still do the things we hate, even after repenting. The teaching that if you truly repent – you will never commit that sin again, is simply not a Biblical one or one that is true. Explained in the audio.)

We DO have to put down the works of the flesh – or we won’t be in the kingdom of God (please read Gal. 5:19-21; Romans 8:12-14). But understand -- it’s a lifelong war. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak, as Yeshua said. *But as long as we are flesh and blood, there WILL be times you “do not do the things that you wish.” (Gal. 5:17)*. If we walk in the spirit, God does not see us as being “in the flesh” (**Romans 8:9**). Nor does he condemn us, or leave us in condemnation, if we are in Christ and no longer walking after the flesh.

But focus on Yeshua. Believe in Yeshua. Accept his righteousness over you – as Paul teaches. I believe God understands we are but flesh and weak (Psalm 78:39). Paul tells us in **Romans 7:15-19** that he was so discouraged by the fact that he still found himself doing those things he hated. “That which I hate, I do” (Romans 7:15). The one doing those bad things is the “old self” – the sinful nature still in him and would remain in him until the resurrection and our change to spirit. That’s when our corruption puts on incorruption. **That’s when we’re perfected and shall be exactly like our Father (1 John 3:1-2)**. It’s when we’re resurrected that we are seen without spot and wrinkle, no not one.

Do you know ANYONE who is right now – without spot or wrinkle in their daily lives? Are they living perfectly each and every moment? But are they children of God? Yes. Are they saved by grace? Yes, if they received it. Do they still sin? Yes. Do they want to? NO.

Focus on the Savior – and His promises of hope and a future that Yeshua gives us. HE will finish in us what He started (**Philippians 1:6**). He will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). Yeshua is the author AND FINISHER of our faith (**Hebrews 12:2**). Read that verse. **HOW did Yeshua endure the cross with all its pain and shame? FOR THE JOY set before him (Heb 12:2)**.

That’s OUR model too: focus on a successful ending, victory, success – the JOY set before you, and don’t be like the one man who buried his talent for fear of what could happen negatively.

There’s negative faith and positive faith. Both work. **What you believe and focus on becomes your reality. Believe in righteousness** – Yeshua’s righteousness – focus on

that, and not on your failures. As you focus on goodness, you will see more goodness come to your life.

---POINT 3: I KNOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST who insist NOBODY can be “SAVED” UNTIL AFTER THE RESURRECTION. Let me ask you: how can those people possibly experience any joy of SALVATION if they don’t accept they’ve received that salvation yet? IF you don’t even believe you are already saved, how can you be GLAD YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED?

OK, some of you out there know who you are. You’ve been taught that “salvation happens at the resurrection – when there’s zero chance of failure left.” And they quote **Matthew 24:13 – that those “who endure to the end shall be saved”**. These folks like to focus on the scriptures that have the big word “IF” in the verse, and those verses ARE in the Bible. Like 1 Cor. 15:2. Let’s look at some in a minute. But it’s CLEAR – **if you don’t feel you’re saved – YET – how can you possibly feel the JOY of being saved, the JOY of salvation?** Here are a couple well used verses to make their point.

Matthew 24:13 – “He who endures to the end SHALL BE saved.”

Romans 5:10 – “... We SHALL BE saved by his life.”

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, **2 by which also you are saved, IF you hold fast** that word which I preached to you — unless you believed in vain.

So those who prefer to believe they aren’t saved yet, and have made salvation/being saved a doctrine instead of a reality, and are focusing on their failures rather than on the perfect righteousness of Christ who is now OUR life – say unless we endure to the end, and unless we hold fast, we may NOT be saved.

So those of you who believe you are not yet saved until you are changed at the resurrection, please hear me. I know the scriptures you use and let’s talk about them. **But if you focus only on those scriptures and refuse to “see” the many, many scriptures that also say you already are saved, or HAVE BEEN SAVED – then you’re being robbed of your JOY you can have in Yeshua’s saving you! I hope you’re thinking about this.**

For those of you in this camp, if you hear me out on this, this sermon can change your life; can bring the REAL JOY of salvation into your life that up til now you have MISSED.

Let me say again, the Bible IS full of warnings such as these, and I know them.

- We are not to be like the seed that fell in the rocks and had no root and fell away in times of stress and trial (Luke 8:13)
- Not working in vain and in the end just being a castaway or disqualified (1 Cor. 9:27)
- Faith without works that prove your faith – is dead faith and is in vain (James 2:26). We have faith FIRST. We believe first. Then our faith is proven by acting on the things we profess and believe.
- Christ said it’s not enough to do good works, to preach in his name, to cast out demons, etc. – unless we obey him, he will say he never knew us. (Matt 7:21-23).

OK – so, all those are there. I know and preach these verses too. Should those rob you of your joy? Many of you ARE being robbed of your joy by being like the man who took the money (the talent) he was given and for FEAR that he would do the wrong thing or lose the money, he BURIED IT, did nothing with it. And his fear came true! He had the talent taken away from him and he was dismissed! Don’t be like him. **(Matthew 25:18-19, 24-28)**

Now how about the verses that say we “HAVE BEEN SAVED”?

True, there are verses that indicate being saved is a future event – “those who endure to the end SHALL be saved”. But let’s use all the scriptures. There are also many more that indicate it is past tense. We have to figure out what’s going on. And I will explain it.

2 Timothy 1:8-10 (parts of the verse) “.....the power of God, 9 **WHO HAS SAVED US** and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ.....”

Ephesians 2:5 and 8 speak of “by grace you HAVE BEEN SAVED through faith...”

Titus 3:5 ---- “NOT by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us...”

Romans 8:24 – “For we were SAVED in this hope.....”

We DO have works of righteousness that we’re expected to do as PROOF of being saved, but those works aren’t what save us (Ephesians 2:10).

So all those scriptures – and more – say we have already been saved, by grace through faith.

The Bible also says we are in the process of being saved. It used the phrase “BEING saved.”

Are BEING SAVED -- you can study these on your own. Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 1:18; 2 Cor 2:15.

And the verses about ‘SHALL BE SAVED’ – AS I mentioned earlier.

So which is it? Scripture says we shall be saved, HAVE been saved, and are BEING saved. It’s all the above. Here’s how.

First of all, even before his death, Paul spoke of KNOWING he had a crown of righteousness awaiting him. (2 Timothy 4:8).

Putting all these thoughts together, if we CONTINUE TO LOOK TO YESHUA and trust in Him, we can say we have been saved. Or throw away all those verses like Eph 2:5, 8; Titus 3:5 and Rom 8:24 etc. If we continue to abide in the Vine, we will bear much fruit and be there at the end. SO that’s where faith comes in.

ILLUSTRATE WITH SOMEONE WHO IS DROWNING IN A LAKE – AND A BOAT COMES UP TO HIM AND SOMEONE THROWS HIM A LIFELINE/ RING... the drowning

man grabs the rope and life-ring, puts it over his body, and now he’s above water and floating above water. The drowning man is still in the water, but now he’s attached to a rope and life-ring – but being pulled into the boat. The people on shore could say “He’s been saved!” Absolutely. Others say “He’s BEING saved”... true also. And others are saying “if he holds fast to that rope and doesn’t give up, he will be saved”. That’s true too.

BEEN SAVED, BEING SAVED, SHALL BE SAVED (HEAR THE AUDIO on this)

But he’s been saved. If you hold fast and abide in Him, you are saved.

But remember your fears come upon you – and stifle your action. BELIEVE – and work for Yeshua. Don’t be like the man who buried his money (talent) for fear (Matthew 25). Fear immobilized him. So some believe they were saved, but will lose it – so they have no joy.

Those are the same people who focus on what THEY do, instead of focusing on what Yeshua does and is doing (Yeshua is our Savior, HE is our High Priest). **You are NOT going to have this kind of joy of His Salvation while stewing and wondering if you’re even saved yet!**

It’s HIS salvation, not yours. Psalm 51:12—“restore to me the joy of YOUR salvation”. HE is the Savior, not we ourselves. **“Savior” is HIS title.** And he’s very good at being Savior. Yeshua is a FRIEND OF SINNERS, remember, as we have his covering. **He’s not a friend of rebellious sinners who won’t repent, but when a sinner does repent, God is SO forgiving and consoling.** It’s amazing – but don’t take his mercy lightly either! Let Him offer it to you. Learn to receive it. **Saving is HIS job, not ours.** He’s the creator of the new creation. We’re not our own new creation creators! Creator is HIS title, not ours.

So which of these is YOU?

---#4 --And finally – what can ROB us of the full joy is FOCUSING ON DOCTRINE, instead of the SAVIOR; Focusing on the EVENT of being redeemed, rather than on the REDEEMER; Focusing on the EVENT of being saved, instead of the SAVIOR. HIS NAME MEANS “salvation” or “Savior”! Don’t just focus on being saved. Focus on your Yeshua – your salvation.

I have a sermon on this site called “Yeshua hiding in plain sight” given December 2011. In there, I point out how in dozens of verses that use the word “salvation”, the word being used is Strong’s #3444 – which is the very name of our Messiah: YESHUA.

Other times, it’s a verb or other word like Yesa or Yasa – but even those are related to Yeshua. But what’s my point?

Where is our JOY really placed? It’s joyous enough when our joy is placed in the EVENT of being saved, or being found, but I think it’s more. I think the real joy is in coming to know the One who Saved us – whose name MEANS Savior, Salvation! And yet there are some who don’t even USE the name Yeshua or Jesus very much! **TRUE joy of which I speak happens finally as you come to personally come to meet, come to know, and experience, Yeshua. Personally.**

Story on the audio of a 105-year old man who had saved over 600 Jewish children from the concentration camps. (Hear the audio). Came to a meeting – without his knowledge of what was about to happen – where hundreds of these now older adults stood up to acknowledge they owed their life literally to this 105-yr old man who saved them.

Here are some example verses where the word translated “salvation” is the Hebrew word YESHUA! That’s the Hebrew name of Jesus.

PSALM 116:13 – “I WILL TAKE UP THE CUP OF YESHUA (SALVATION) and call upon the name of YHVH”

Psalm 118:14-15 – “the voice of rejoicing and Yeshua (SALVATION) IS IN THE TENTS of the righteous.”

Psalm 119:123—“My eyes fail seeking for your salvation (Yeshua) and your righteous Word.

Isaiah 25:9--- “we will be glad and rejoice (joy) in His salvation (Yeshua). “

Are you hearing it, getting it? Restoring the Joy of YOUR salvation – is finding or restoring your relationship with Yeshua. That’s at the heart and core of this true joy!

Now get this: I believe it is a type of denial, denying Yeshua himself, when we deny, refuse, or won’t accept HIM – and the GIFTS he wants to give us. He wants to freely give us – in fact – everything! And that includes righteousness and the holy spirit and so much.

BEFORE Yeshua – it was like we were walking in a tough neighborhood – Satan’s world – by ourselves, and we’re just little boys or girls in my example. (More on the audio). You’re afraid. You’re being bullied. You’re being seduced. You’re being taken advantage of. Then along comes your big Brother whose been looking for you, and has found you, and saved you – and who has conquered everything and everyone – and he says, “Hey, just walk with me. I’VE got your back! And from now on, you’re “In me” and “with me” and “by me” – and I can handle anything and anyone who comes our way, as long as you hang on to me.”

This is the Jesus – the Yeshua – I am coming to know.

Romans 8:29-33

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

31 What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up FOR US all, **how shall He not WITH Him also FREELY GIVE us ALL things?**

Wow, wow, wow DEAR Abba. Did you hear that? FREELY. WITH HIM. ALL things. The joy is not in JUST being saved but that Abba has given us a big brother who SAVES us, lives

his life in us, and will see us to the very end – unless we stupidly forsake Him, and knowingly refuse Him permanently.

But note that this salvation includes receiving freely of all things. There will be new GEMS you’ll be given every day.

Then in v. 35 – he asks “WHO will separate us from the love of Christ?” – Romans 8:37-39

37 Yet in all these things we are **more than conquerors through Him** who **loved** us. [*The focus must be on HIM, not on us; on HIS working in us, not on us!*]
38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, **nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”

NOTHING – once you’re in Christ – can separate you from Abba’s love.

So the JOY of Yeshua is the JOY OF SALVATION. **Coming to know Yeshua is where the true JOY will be.** So we want to be restored to the joy of HIS YESHUA!

This is what the stories of **Luke 15** are all about. Like the story of the prodigal son and his father. The dad sees his lost son from afar. He must have been looking for him. He sprints to the son, falls upon him in his joy, hugs him and keeps kissing him. (Hear the audio on this for more details) But he stank, was barefoot – so Dad cleans him up, puts on a fresh robe and sandals on his feet. The son never got a chance to say anything about “no longer deserving to be your son”.

The true joy will be in coming to really know YESHUA – the PERSON, the BEING who created all things – and not just the event of being saved. That was Paul’s first and foremost goal – “that I may KNOW HIM...”

Now let’s learn from David and what HE can teach us.

PSALM 51 high points

We begin with repentance. There can be NO JOY UNTIL THE SIN IS REPENTED OF and FORGIVEN. BUT KEEP IN MIND, even here, GOD is the one who leads us to repentance, because he loves us so much. (Romans 2:4)

True repentance is not just admitting the wrongs we did or things we should have done... but repenting of what causes sin. **Sin is caused by what we ARE. Sinners sin.** We are sinners until totally absolved of sin by God – and that happens only when we totally repent. He doesn’t even mention Uriah and Bathsheba here.

What IS repentance? Besides admission of one’s guilt, and asking forgiveness, expressing regret – it also **causes one to change direction.** The Greek word for “repent” has a distinct meaning of changing direction.

It’s far harder to say “Father, I’m such a liar. Please forgive me and help me put that out of my life.” **Most people will repent of what they did, but not of what they are.** You

are a liar – so admit that. (Hear the audio on this part.) It’s easier to say “Forgive me for having lied” than “forgive me for being such a liar. I don’t want to be a liar anymore.” Or adulterer, Sabbath breaker, a gossip, a thief, etc. (I recommend you hear the sermon **“Repenting of what we are” -- March 2009 and March 2010**). Say the detestable things you’ve done – as you take ownership. Holy Father, I don’t want to be this anymore. I want to be clean, pleasing to you.

So let’s see how David begins in his prayer of repentance in Psalm 51.

Psalms 51 – from the HOLMAN version.

1 Be gracious to me, God, according to Your faithful love; according to Your abundant compassion, blot out my rebellion (transgressions” in KJV).

His FIRST WORDS are about God and his faithful love and compassion. Who and what are you focusing on – FIRST? He focuses first on God, then He mentions his guilt in verse 2. Always start by focusing on God.

The word “transgressions” in KJV and “rebellion” in Holman is Hebrew *pesa or pesha*. Strong’s says it means “revolt”. When men sin against men, it can be translated “transgression”, but MOST of the time this word is used when sin is against God, it has the meaning of rebelling against what God has taught us in his holy teachings and his Torah.

2 Wash away my guilt (iniquity – KJV), and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I am conscious of my rebellion, and my sin is always before me. 4 **Against You—You alone—I have sinned and done this evil in Your sight.** [ultimately all sin is against GOD; ultimately. It’s HIS laws that we are breaking.] So You are right when You pass sentence; You are blameless when You judge. 5 Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me. [By Adam’s sin, all humanity was considered sinners – Romans 5:12-19].

So REPENTANCE must precede asking for restoration. HUGE, HUGE POINT: true repentance and conversion is MUCH MORE than just repenting of believing the wrong set of beliefs - - like Christmas, Easter, worshiping in Sunday instead of the 7th day, eating pork and all that. That has to all be repented of too, but those aren’t the main things. The BIGGEST THING is to repent of what we ARE: WE ARE SINNERS. “I am a sinner, father, and I don’t want to be that anymore.”

We repent of not being like God. We repent of what we ARE – and we “are” things so different than holy, holy, holy God. What ARE we? God is the Great I AM... he is love, kindness, goodness, he is the rock, he is faithful, and he is true. What are WE? It’s harder to say “I AM a liar” than to say “I have lied”. It’s harder to say “I’m such a thief” – rather than “I didn’t pay all my taxes”. It’s harder to say “I am so unfaithful in my heart at times” rather than “forgive me for looking at other women”.... This is repenting of what we ARE.

True repentance is a LOT more than just accepting a new set of beliefs, folks! True repentance is being sickened by what you see in your old carnal self and wanting it THROWN OUT. Not overhauled – but THROWN OUT. Replaced! There’s nothing salvageable about it. Paul says “there’s nothing good inside me, in my flesh” – Rom 7:18. Let’s move on – Psalm 51:9 now.

6 Surely You desire integrity in the inner self, and You teach me wisdom deep within.7 **Purify me** with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Hyssop – was a tiny plant used to sprinkle the people with the **rites of purification** (Lev 14:4, 6; Numbers 19:18); it was also what they used to splash the lamb’s blood on to the door posts at the first Passover in Exodus 12:22. So Hyssop pictures the cleansing from the Blood of the Lamb of God – Yeshua. “YOU wash me, O God...”

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed rejoice.9 Turn Your face away from my sins and blot out all my guilt.

So far David sounds very depressed, repentant, and joyless – as he focuses on himself and his sin. And so it should be, at this point. But notice how the TONE changes when he realizes He’s repented, and now looks UP to his salvation. Notice the tone. Later on you must focus on Yeshua. What you believe and focus on in your heart – will be things you see in your life. Your faith, your belief comes true – whether positive or negative faith. Have positive belief. (More on the audio)

10 God, CREATE a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

God is the creator of the first creation – and he is the creator of the new creation. Yeshua created all things. HE will make you new; you won’t be the one doing that. Only God can CREATE a new clean heart in you.

11 Do not banish me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.

YEARS had gone by. The Holy Spirit certainly was not being stirred up; it was not being active in David’s life. ***But it’s clear that neither does Father instantly remove His spirit every single time we sin*** – or we would quite often have none of the spirit! IF we go a long time without repentance and stirring up the spirit, it can be taken from us. King Saul was such a person. After a period of time of rebellion without real repentance, God DID take away His spirit from Saul. You can read in **1 Samuel 10:16** how Saul received the spirit and “became another man” – a different person. Then God takes away the spirit in **1 Samuel 16:14**. So it CAN happen! But it doesn’t happen each time we slip up.

12 “Restore the joy of Your salvation to me, and give me a willing spirit.”

SALVATION IS GOD’S WORK. You can’t save yourself. We need to accept the blood of the Lamb over us. Notice the wording in Titus 3:4-7

Titus 3:4-7

4 But when the **kindness and the love of God our Savior** toward man appeared, 5 **NOT by works of righteousness which WE have done, but according to His mercy He saved us,** through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

So notice it is the joy of HIS salvation. It’s even HIS joy as we shall see.

Back now to Psalm 51, v 13, and David’s prayer changes to joy as he is experiencing the wondrous forgiveness and restoration. We are not to WALLOW in our self-contempt after we have repented.

Psalms 51:13-19

13 Then I will teach the rebellious Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

When you are SO EXCITED about some good news, you share it! James says it’s a wonderful thing when anyone turns a sinner from his evil ways. **James 5:19-20.**

14 Save me from the guilt of bloodshed, God, **the God of my salvation**, and my tongue will sing of **YOUR** righteousness. 15 Lord, open my lips ,and my mouth will declare **Your praise.**

David knew that ultimately no man is totally righteous in God’s eyes – not one – **See Psalm 143:2.** ONLY God’s righteousness covering us can make us truly righteous, and the prophets and apostles understood this.

- **David** did – See Psalm 71:15-19; **Psalm 72:1** (“Give the king YOUR righteousness”) among many. PS 51:14
- **Jeremiah** understood it. “YHVH OUR righteousness” – Jer. 33:16.
- **Abraham** believed God would provide a son when he still had no son – and that faith was accounted to him for righteousness **Genesis 15:6.** I think his faith went beyond just believing he would have his OWN son someday, but that through their son the Son of God would come – and he had faith in Yeshua way back then!
- **Peter** also taught about the righteousness of God by faith – **see 2 Peter 1:1.**
- **CERTAINLY Paul** taught it. **2 Cor. 5:20** – Christ, “who knew no sin, became sin for us that WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM”

Back to Psalm 51, verse 16 now.

16 You do not want a sacrifice, or I would give it; You are not pleased with a burnt offering.

17 The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. God, You will not despise a broken and humbled [contrite] heart.

18 In Your good pleasure, cause Zion to prosper; build the walls of Jerusalem.

19 Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

Joy of salvation. In Hebrew...yesa or yesha – a form of the name Yeshua. Restore to me the joy of Yeshua!

OTHER EXAMPLES OF JOY OF SALVATION

WHO has the greater joy at being found when you’re lost? The 4 yr old lost child – or the parents? Who understood MORE DEEPLY the risks involved and what just happened? The PARENTS.

IN the PARABLES OF LUKE 15 – WHICH I’ve been speaking about in the last few sermons, the points I want to focus on today are these:

- **GOD looks for us when we’re lost or cast out.** The lost coin, sheep, prodigal son. Father saw him a long ways off.
- **The JOY is in sharing HIS joy. HIS JOY is far greater than even OUR joy is.** Have you caught that before? The man who finds his lost sheep calls everyone over to celebrate in HIS joy. Go read it in Luke 15:6. The woman told her neighbors she wanted them to share her joy at finding her coin. The Prodigal son threw a PARTY for everyone to share the father’s joy that his son who was lost was now found again. (Luke 15:23-24)

THE sinful WOMAN AT THE WELL – JOHN 4 – Yeshua had sent the 12 into town to get some food, as he was tired and hungry. He got such a KICK out of inspiring the woman, whose sins were many, that he felt refreshed! And the woman JOYFULLY told everyone about the SAVIOR, the Messiah. Yeshua stayed 2 extra days in the joy of their salvation.

John 4:25-26 – **Yeshua reveals himself as the MESSIAH** to this sinful woman

IN the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-9 – the short CHIEF tax collector whom everyone hated, because he stole and cheated so many. Yeshua calls out his name and then invites himself and his entourage to his home for lunch! Now think of a few things here: your name is who you are. This man thought nobody would even notice him up in a tree – but Yeshua did, and **Yeshua called him by name**. Why would that be any big feat? This same Yeshua knows the exact number of stars – for he created them all – and knows every star in the universe by NAME (Psalm 147:4). And remember there are BILLIONS OF GALAXIES, and each galaxy has billions of stars.

But the story is here for us because Abba wants us to know that he knows YOU and me by name too! Every detail about you, he knows. Your name is inscribed, are carved, on the palms of his hands, and he can’t forget you (Isaiah 49:16). He puts our tears in his bottle (Psalm 56:8). Now ponder that one!

So this great CREATOR basically tells despised Zacchaeus that his Creator KNOWS him, loves him, hasn’t given up on him, and wants for him to come to know his Savior – so they had lunch. Zacchaeus is so touched and overjoyed by this that he came to salvation that very day! Yeshua said so. “NOW has Yeshua (salvation) come to this house.” – Luke 19:8-10.

This is the joy of salvation.

I’m out of time.

Pray for the joy of this salvation. Focus on the Savior. Learn to sing with your heart. Lift your hands in prayer. Learn to shout for joy once in a while. Let what is welling up inside come out. When you realize what a lost sinner you once were, and now you’ve been found, that should result in GREAT joy! Religion, spirituality, Bible study, going “to church”, fellowshiping – should all result in such great joy, the JOY of HIS salvation.

Know you’re being saved and have been saved. Get past the doctrine and now focus on the Savior himself, and not just the concept of being saved.

Let me know if you start to experience this mighty and wonderful joy of salvation. I hope you’ve been blessed by this message.

Closing prayer...