

Psalm 16 (The Sweetest Joy)

What well are you drinking from today? (sweet water; sulfur water; greasy water; evian?Alps)
Depending on the WELL, where you dip is what you get. What has been your source?

Where do you find yourself today? Disappointed w/ Life? Discouraged? Overwhelmed?
Experiencing loss? Neutral? Distracted? Or are you experiencing blessing & encouragement?
Where are you finding your satisfaction? Refreshment? Restoration? *Thirsty Souls Restored*

Can I remind you of the one WELL that will never run dry and will never disappoint: =Jesus
The WELL which produces joy, the Joy of eternal life: "Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." Jn.4

1. Only Jesus is the **truest** source (WELL) of restoration, hope, and eternal life =**nothing else**
2. Only Jesus can be the untouchable source of lasting **joy** in your life when all else fails:

Ps. 16: Renewed confidence in the Person, the Care, & the Contentment found ONLY in Lord

READ Psalm 16 : Protect me, God, for I take refuge in You. ² [b]I said to the Lord, "You are [c]my Lord; I have nothing good besides You." ³ As for the [d]saints who are on the earth, [e]They are the majestic ones; all my delight is in them. ⁴ [f]The pains of those who have acquired another *god* will be multiplied; I will not pour out their drink offerings of blood, Nor will I take their names upon my lips. ⁵ The Lord is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You support my lot. ⁶ The measuring lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; Indeed, my inheritance is beautiful to me. ⁷ I will bless the Lord who has advised me; Indeed, my [g]mind instructs me in the night. ⁸ I have set the Lord continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely. ¹⁰ For You will not abandon my soul to [h]Sheol; You will not [i]allow Your [j]Holy One to [k]undergo decay. ¹¹ You will make known to me the way of life; **In Your presence is fullness of joy**; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Where is your source of Joy, strength, and security? Relationships? Kids? Job?
Position/power? Money? Comfort? Material possessions? Vacations? Nice things Reputation?
=ALL these will fail you. Given enough time, these will disappoint you; leave u unsatisfied.
They will leave you. **They are shifting sand underneath you!** Only Christ is the **ROCK**

***Only Jesus can be the untouchable source of lasting Joy in your life when all else fails**

-If you have Jesus, you have everything. If you have Jesus, everything in else is **just the gravy**
-If you have Jesus, then you should be swimming in Joy! How come so many of you are not?

3. **Joy is a consistent mark of the mature believer!** Are you ready to grow in your joyfulness
 - A. Joy is a **choice**; a mental decision, a spiritual decision: A Spirit-led reality **based in Jesus' finished work on the cross & His continual intercession for you. He prays for you.**
 - B. Joy is much **deeper** than *happiness* which is dependent on outward circumstances
 - C. Joy is a constant **delight** in your soul that runs deeper than pain, pleasure, or emotion (not swayed by temporary seasons of blessings or loss, gaining or losing)
 - D. Joy is that stability of countenance that comes from the possession of knowledge that you are loved, chosen, purchased, blood-bought, care for, relentlessly pursued for your own spiritual good- for your own blessing bc God cares for you & NOTHING can change that
 - E. Joy comes from being in the daily **presence** of the Lord. He is our Joy. **He is our prize.**
His presence is our **Strength**. He's unmovable. His presence is our **Security**. =Refuge

Consider David, imperfect, but chosen King. On run 10yrs. Hiding. Desperation. Fatigue (Even with all His mistakes, sins, failures: Lust, rapist, murder, poor father: =1Ki 3:14)

-amidst all of David's faults & failures as a man, king, husband, father... he loved the Lord!

Vs. 1: Protect me (preserve me), God, for I take refuge in You. David's joy rests in the reality that the Lord is His refuge, His only security. His security *not* found in earthly things, *not* in his crown, his position, his power, his "kingdom" or reputation, blessings =Only in the Lord!!!

-Where are you placing your truest identity? Security? Hope? =Joy is found only in the Lord

Vs. 2: I said to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have nothing good besides You." David's joy rests in God's Person, in the Lord's goodness (not the fading world's). David declared that The Lord is His God. He made a declaration for all to know. That I am the Lord's! God is my God. I'm His!

-What is your declaration this morning? To whom do you belong? Who knows that? work/neighbor

Vs. 3: As for the saints [holy ones] who are on the earth, They are the majestic (excellent) ones; all my delight is in them. David states he wants to be with other believers; he is supported, encouraged, and blessed by other faithful, joy-filled believers.

-Our joy is **emboldened** by watching others thrive in Joy (even when all else fails)

-Who is your biblical community? Who knows you? Where are you connected? Who encoura

Vs. 4: The pains (sorrows) of those who have acquired (who go after) another god will be multiplied; I will not pour out their drink offerings of blood, Nor will I take their names upon my lips. David states that he will avoid those who choose constantly to drown in idol worship; he will not participate in others' self-destructive behavior bc of their spiritual immaturity, or lostness – (we are to be a witness & love the lost); **but** we have to be **wise** in not being dragged down by faithless behaviors & idols (alcohol, gentlemen's clubs, gambling, keeping up with the Jones by pouring our life into material pursuits, comforts, habits, hobbies, hidden sin)

-If you are not experiencing deep, abiding, life-giving joy in your life, what might you need to give up, cut out, quit, walk-away, stop in your life that is blocking full obedience to Jesus?

Vs. 5: The Lord is the portion of my inheritance (my chosen portion) and my cup; You support (hold) my lot. ⁶The measuring lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; Indeed, my inheritance is beautiful to me. David reminds his heart that all he has is bc of God's grace. ---

David's joy rests in the knowledge of God's provision; God's blessings. These look different for everyone. They come at different times & seasons for everyone. We are not to compare w/

-David says that the Lord Himself is his inheritance. The Lord is the greatest gift of all. =PRIZE

-Our joy is founded in the Lord, not our blessings by the Lord. Our things come/go. He is ever-present. -What do you need to thank the Lord for today? List all your blessings-grateful

Vs. 7: I will bless the Lord who has advised (counseled) me; Indeed, my mind/heart [inner man: kidneys] instructs me in the night. David rests at night even with all the stress & disappointment he is experiencing; He trusts in the Lord. He sleeps under God's protection. David's joy rests in God's surveillance over his life – even in the hardest moments of life.

-How is your rest? Your rest and your trust are tied together. What stresses are you still carrying that the Lord has called you to give to Him. "Come to me all who are weary, heavy..

Vs. 8: I have set the Lord continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. David models for us how to pursue the Christian walk. Daily David sets the Lord before Him. The discipline of God's Word daily; prayer; meditation; Spirit-filled; useful to God

-What are you pursuing daily to keep the Lord ever before you. Your Joy is tied to His presence. If neglect Him..

Vs. 9: Therefore my heart is glad and my glory [my whole being] rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely. Because David sets the Lord before him daily, David describes His joy: His heart is cheerful, delighted, at ease, overwhelmed with God's goodness & promises
-What's the result? David states his whole being worships God (=truly thankful =worship/rej
-What causes you to worship God? What moves you to thank the Lord in your life?
-Are you able to worship and be grateful even when disappointed? Discouraged? Let down? Hurt? Experiencing deep loss? When our Joy is tied to Him (not circumstances), then we can

Vs. 10: For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; You will not allow Your Holy One to undergo decay[see corruption] David's security and joy rests in God's presence and God's promise that our souls belong to Him; our hope is tied to Jesus' resurrection & Christ's promise of eternal life for all who are IN Him. Our Joy is based in God's **victory** over sin/death! =future
Do you fear death? Do you know where you will spend eternity? If you are uncertain about your eternal future, there is no possibility of divine joy in the present!

Vs. 11: You will make known to me the way of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever. What a powerful way to end this song, this prayer, this spiritual reminder of truth, hope, and lasting JOY!!
-Jesus is the way of eternal life. God shows us the way. His Word declares it. Spirit reveals it.
-David reminds us that true, everlasting JOY is only found in the Presence of the living God!
-Where else are you seeking Joy, hope, security, strength, identity, control, comfort?
=We cannot experience joy while being preoccupied with our own security, pleasure, or self-interest.

What's my response to this message? How can I begin to experience true JOY in my life?

I must pursue.....

1. **Complete surrender to God as Lord, trusting His sovereign hand over my life.**
2. **Complete trust in God's care and protection** as experienced through Jesus' life & work
3. **A true conviction that God Himself is our chief good and Joy in only ever tied to His presence in my life**

Have you tasted this? Have you enjoyed the freedom of complete Joy only found in Christ? Have you been freed from the quest to secure stability and joy in the things of this world? Have you been ushered into the JOY and invincibility of knowing Him no matter what you lose in terms of your health, finances, marriage, children, job, emotional sanity? The Lord is your ever-present refuge in this life and the next.