

Joy in Tribulation

Why are we joyful when an event happens, then later experience in the same event hard trials or tribulations? Often, we blame our problems on someone or something saying, "They caused that to hurt me!" or, "What that person said makes me mad!" Such words are evidence of focusing on ourselves, not on One who brings joy. It is our own thinking that causes joy to be replaced by hurt or anger. We unknowingly make the choice to feel hurt or angry instead of being joyful. Fear can sway our choice to become hurt or angry, and fear is everywhere. Students cannot learn while in fear but thrive in joy. Joy-filled parents build a home in which their children do well. One or two angry, fear-filled players on a basketball team will adversely affect the team's ability to win. Joy quickly departs when we continue to do the same thing over and over, expecting different results.

Beloved, here are some key points to remember in order to be joyful while in a trial or tribulation: Be glad in the LORD, rejoice, and shout for joy (Psalm 32:11 NKJV). Rejoice in hope, patient in tribulation, steadfast in prayer (Romans 12:12). God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). We cannot successfully handle unwanted troubles apart from Jesus (John 15:5). Shalom!!

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