

EMBRACING *THE* BEAUTY *OF* GOD

GRAHAM COOKE

EPISODE 6:

The Majesty of Joy

"We desire that your joy should make you complete in your alignment with Us in every life issue. A completeness that closes the door on negativity and opens the door to trust, faith and confident expectation. I AM that door..."

I (*Graham*) remember being in a difficult time years ago. One day, the Lord showed up and said, "What are you doing?" I told Him, "I'm having a long, dark night of the soul."

He smiled and asked, "How's that working for you?"

"It's not. I hate it," I replied.

"So who told you about 'long, dark nights of the soul?'" Jesus asked.

"I read about it in the Mystics," I answered.

"Ah... those guys" He smiled. "We loved them, but We never really had great fellowship with them because they processed everything through suffering and We don't. So, Graham, you can have a long, dark night of the soul if you want... but what if you could have a short, bright day of the Spirit instead? Which would you choose?"

And, being a smart man, I decided to choose short and bright. The key to "short and bright" that is to process everything with God in a place of joy.

Joy closes the door on weariness, sadness and insecurity.

In grief, joy opens the door to comfort and strong tower of refuge.

Joy and peace in believing empower you to walk in a new and living way.

So, take some time to think:

- *Who has God been to you that has made your heart glad?*
- *When have you felt satisfied in Him and at peace?*
- *On a daily basis, what makes you happy in God?*

Joy is best found in the ordinary, everyday, gorgeous experiences of being loved by God; small moments of time that accumulate and become powerful when we're aware of them.

Sometimes, the best place to step into a new experience of God is in the shallow, quiet part of the river. It's not always about taking a grand leap from a cliff into the rapids.

Life in God is so gorgeously accessible. Our everyday encounters with joy (or any part of His true nature) allow us to wade into a new flow of life that gently leads to new levels of confidence, peace and joy in believing.

Allow for joy. Maybe start with the Crafted Prayer in this word:

*“Father, I make room for joy.
I give You my distress.
Make me to know joy and gladness.
In the name of Jesus. Amen.”*

It is such a joy to ask... and keep on asking, because every time is an encounter with the joy that God has in us, with us and for us.

You can use that prayer, or write a better one. And as you listen to this word again and again, may you have a beautiful, simple, powerful encounter with Joy.

Graham