

**2 Kings 20:15-19**

<sup>15</sup> He said, "What have they seen in your house?" So Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them." <sup>16</sup> Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord. <sup>17</sup> 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day will be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the Lord. <sup>18</sup> 'Some of your sons who shall issue from you, whom you will beget, will be taken away; and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.'" <sup>19</sup> Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good." For he thought, "Is it not so, if there will be peace and truth in my days?"

When we are not walking daily in the Spirit, we can come to cherish comfort and a false peace over facing hard realities.

"If I don't see it, I don't have to experience the grief of it. 'All is well' will be my truth, and I will dwell in peace."

**Psalm 53:1**

**53** The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God," They are corrupt, and have committed abominable injustice; There is no one who does good.

**There is No God**, Arthur Clough (insert text from below here)

One of the most painful phrases ever spoken is "Too Late!"- I am ready to accept the truth now, but door is closed- the truth cannot now accept me.

Being more committed to truth than to peace- which can be an idol- is actually the pathway to joy for the believer.

**Psalm 45:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom. <sup>7</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of joy above Your fellows.

Jesus was given the greatest joy of anyone He knew for one simple reason: He loved what God loved, and hated what God hated!

Jesus faced fearlessly the truth about everything; He sank down under the heaviest of burdens, and soared on the heights of the most glorious joys.

**Hebrews 12:2**

<sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

If you want the heights of joy (loving righteousness), you have to also accept the heavy burdens (hating wickedness).

**Luke 10:17-22**

<sup>17</sup> The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

The Burden: demonic activity is alive and well, causing evil, deception, oppression, sickness, and death.

The Joy: In Jesus' name, they are subject to us, and their power is broken!

<sup>18</sup> And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. <sup>19</sup> Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. <sup>20</sup> Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

Jesus knew an even greater joy, and He did not want them to stop short of it: our names are recorded in heaven as the everlasting children of God.

Our enemy is real, has power, and we will have to come in close contact with him to overcome him, but he can never overcome us!

<sup>21</sup> At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. <sup>22</sup> All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*."

The Burden: All truth, even about the Son, is revealed to some and hidden from others, and this is pleasing to God.

The Joy: We are the "infants"- those children with simple faith- with whom Jesus rejoiced to share all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

This journey begins with every child of God endeavoring to accept God just as He is- as He is revealed in Scripture.

#### **Psalm 43:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your dwelling places.

<sup>4</sup> Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And upon the lyre I shall praise You, O God, my God.

If you are bearing the burden of God now, your joy in the Holy Spirit is coming! Jesus Himself will see to that.

#### **There is No God**

Arthur Clough (1850)

'There is no God,' the wicked saith,  
'And truly it's a blessing,  
For what he might have done with us  
It's better only guessing.'

But country folks who live beneath  
The shadow of the steeple;  
The parson and the parson's wife,  
And mostly married people;

Youths green and happy in first love,  
So thankful for illusion;  
And men caught out in what the world  
Calls guilt, in first confusion;

And almost everyone when age, Disease, or sorrows strike him,  
Inclines to think there is a God, Or something very like Him.