

Join us
for our
**Christmas
Potluck**
December 18th
@ 6pm
in our
Fellowship Hall

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The Pleasures of Life

God gives us richly all things to enjoy, the life of a believer need not be dull or boring. Some heathens refuse to convert to Christianity because they think they would never have fun again. When I was in the world I had "fun"! I would drink so much beer I would get dizzy and then sick. The next day I dreaded getting off the floor or wherever I was, because I knew I would have a terrible hangover. And this was fun? The only people who thought it was "cool" were the other drunks, my friends.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Every sin we make must be paid for, in this life and in the one to come. Our jails and prisons are full of sinners who are being paid for their sin. Hell is getting full of sinners who are paying for their transgressions. Now, this is the ironic part, the world does not want the pleasures of this life taken from them, they are willing to pay the consequence! The wages of our sin is death, we earn and deserve what we get. But, God is offering us a life where He pays for our sins and He makes it a gift, something we don't earn.

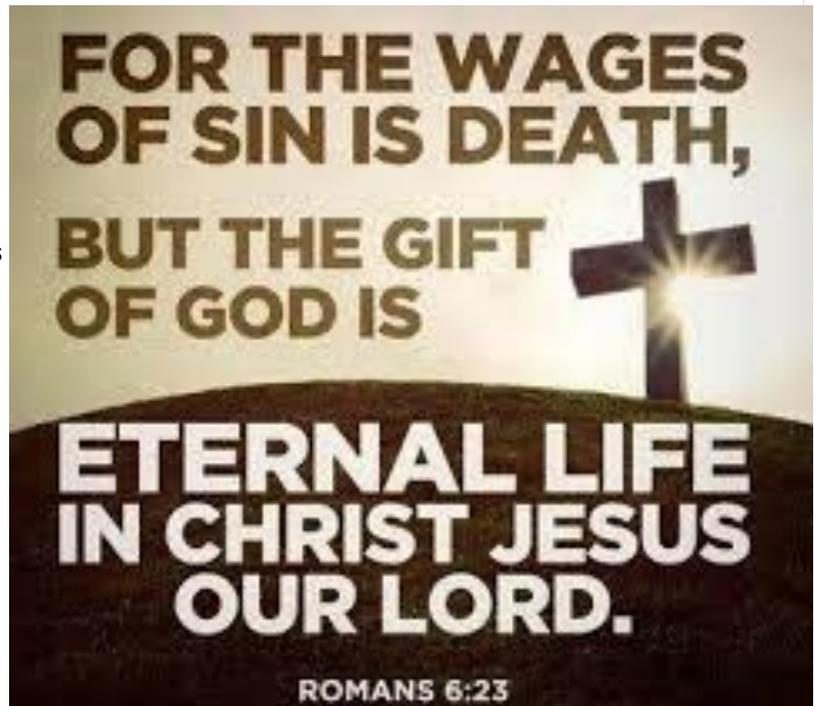
1 Timothy 6:17 Put your trust in the living God who gives richly

(abundant wealth) all things to enjoy.

God has blessed me in so many ways and in so many things I have lost count of and not one time was there any repercussions or hangovers. The pleasures I had in the world all came with a corresponding consequence, but I was willing to take the risk. When I lied, I lost all credibility, when I drank I lost all control and when I stole something I was caught and punished. I am so grateful for my time in the Catholic school, when I got out of line the nuns slapped me and beat me, they were teaching me about the consequence of bad behavior in the world. My time in the Catholic school prepared me for boot camp, I never once was reprimanded for acting out.

Galatians 5:13 You have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion for the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Redemption is the gift of God, we have been made free from the control of our flesh. Sometimes our flesh has a desire for things that are sinful and sometimes we yield to them. Because of the gift of God we do not lose our place in heaven and if we repent, our transgression is wiped out. A born-again Christian can enjoy the pleasure of an alcohol beverage and remain saved. But He will flow only out of a clean vessel. A born-again saint can enjoy the sinful pleasures of the flesh, but his righteousness cannot protect him from the wages of his transgression.



The Joy of the Lord

Jesus hated what He had to endure but He had joy because He knew how things would turn out.

Nehemiah 8:10 Do not be sad or sorry: for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

When joy manifests in the life of a believer, they will be continually glad and cheerful. It can be difficult to understand why a person in tribulation can even have joy. You cannot analyze joy because it is not a product of man, joy can only come from the Lord Himself. The Holy Ghost and the joy of the Lord are like the wind, you can't see the wind but you can see what it does when it blows. So, how do we have joy?

John 15:11 These things I have spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full.

The joy of the Lord is a manifestation of His joy in us based on what He tells us. No matter what your situation, the joy of the Lord

can manifest in your heart. Jesus said that in this life we would have tribulation but to be of good cheer because He overcame everything that tries to hinder us. If we take hold of His Word we will know the devil cannot sustain any kind of attack, His joy gives us strength.

Mathew 7:24 Whosoever hears My Words and does them, will be like a wise man which builds his house upon a rock.

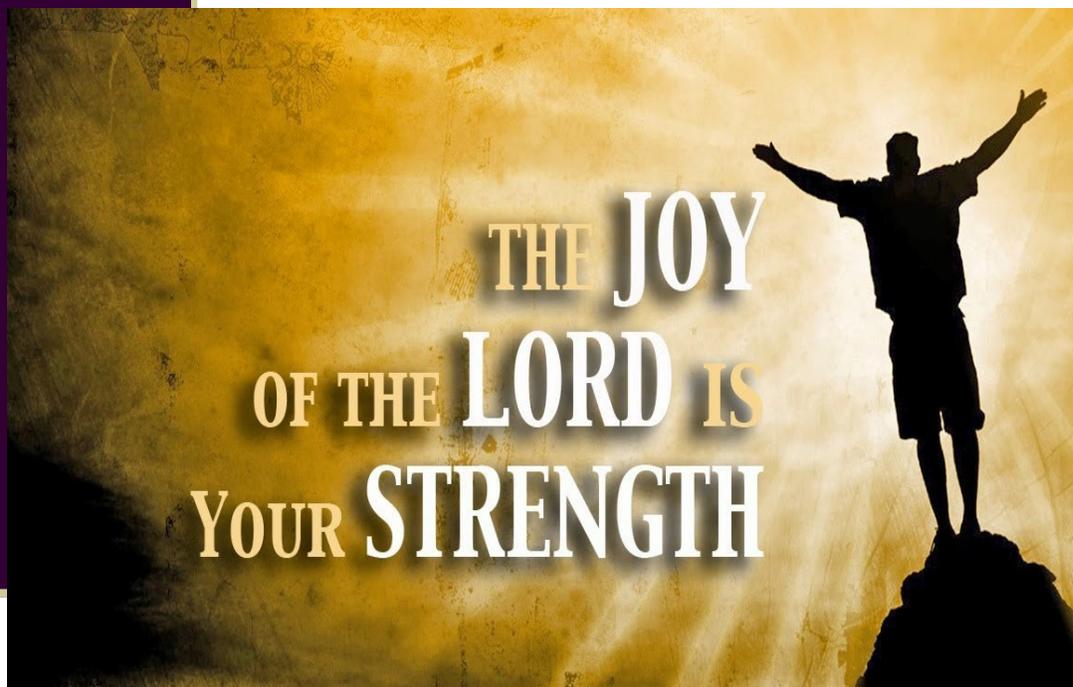
My natural house is built on a cement foundation according to Montana state building code. When the heavy rains and snow come I never have even one worried thought. I know the elements of nature cannot harm me, so I have natural joy. Jesus says that if we listen to Him and do what He says, then the devil has no weapons that he forms against us that will

succeed. If we get the revelation that we are more than conquerors, then we will have the joy of the Lord without limitations. When you have the joy of the Lord in your heart, you have an attitude of confidence and victory. The joy of the Lord is a spiritual force that empowers a person to expect victory every day of their life. No man can take your joy because no man gave it to you.

Hebrews 12:2 Look unto Jesus Who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame.

Jesus hated what He had to endure but He had joy because He knew how things would turn out. He knew that His blood would cleanse all mankind of sin, He knew many would not see hell. Without faith a man cannot have the God kind of faith, one must be-

lieve that God will have the last word. People who have no faith tend to be depressed and withdrawn, they have no hope of a better life. Most people who commit suicide have no hope, they cannot see anything getting better for them. The joy of the Lord will sustain a believer through every hardship and attack of the devil. If the devil cannot get your joy, then he cannot get your goods.



No Prudes in the Kingdom

Some folks think that once you become a Christian you must live a cloistered life like a monk. King Solomon had over a thousand wives and concubines and God blessed him richly in all things. How could God help Solomon in his sin? Because the law had not yet been given, so Solomon was not in sin. God is not offended when a husband and wife have sex, where do you think our children come from?

Genesis 18:12 So Sarah laughed to herself and said, "now that I am old and worn out, can I still enjoy sex? And besides, my husband is old too".

God told Abraham when he was a hundred years old and Sarah was ninety that she would become pregnant and give birth to a son. This was not a virgin birth, Abraham and Sarah had to have sex in order to fulfill the will of God. They did not "fool around" just to have a kid, Sarah said she had pleasure with Abraham. God gives us opportunities to have legitimate pleasures and they are not sinful.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

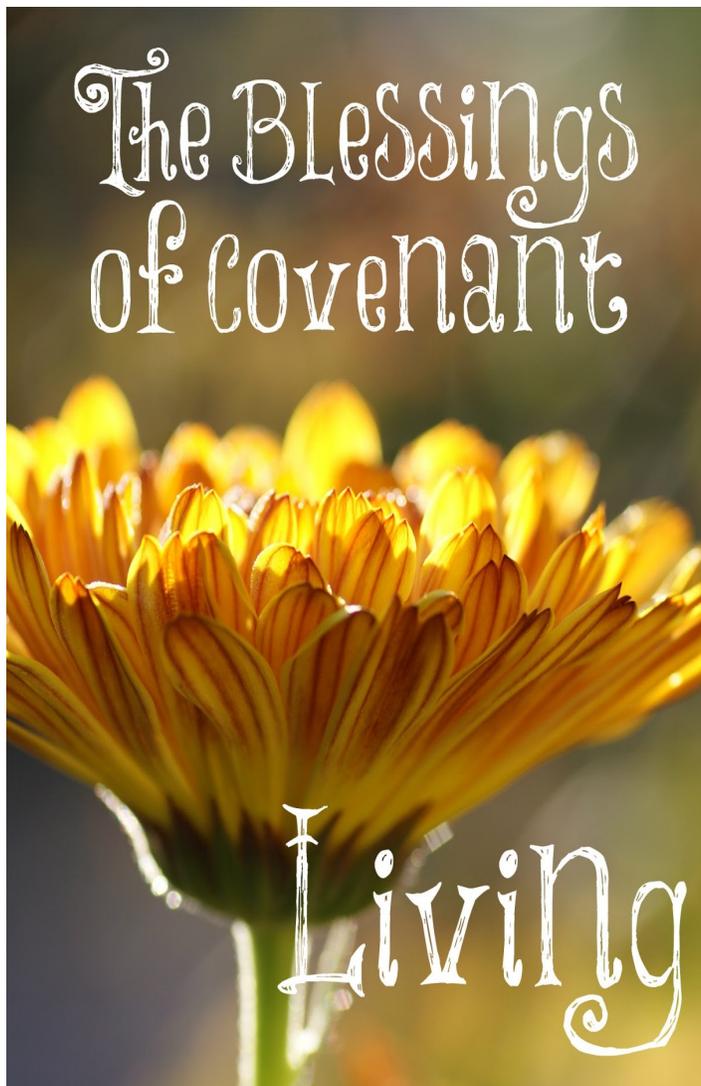
God will honor whatever a husband and wife agree to,

but He will judge those who include other people in their intimate lives. A husband and wife can give themselves to one another in sexual pleasure but God draws the line with infidelity. The bodies of the husband and wife belong to one another, they are not to be put on display

These pleasures were once exclusive to our unrighteous flesh but now they agree with our spirit, soul and body. It gives us the Bible kind of pleasure when we please God and when He blesses us. When God has an active place in our lives we are not consumed with the pleasures of our flesh, but we are well satisfied. We need not abstain from the pleasures of the flesh, we simply need to prioritize and put our Lord first.

1 Corinthians 7:5 Do not deprive each other of sexual relations, unless you both agree to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time so you can give yourselves more completely to prayer. Afterward, you should come together again so that satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self control.

Intimacy between a husband and a wife is personal and a necessary part of their covenant. God does not ask us to abstain for any length of time because He knows the importance of such a beautiful gift. God does not call for His people to be prudes but to enjoy one another with Him as the Lord of the relationship.



for other people. A husband and wife dress to please one another and not the people outside of their covenant.

Psalms 16:11 You will show me the path of life: in your presence is fulness of joy; at your right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

**It
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FOJ

Fortress of Joy Church
720 Faw Rd
Helena, MT 59602

Phone: 406-442-1819

E-mail: support.fortress@aol.com

FortressOfJoyChurch.com

**Restoring the
supernatural power
of God back
to the local church**

Heaven on Earth

Some folks do not want to become Christians because they "think" Christians lead a boring life and never have fun. Their idea of "fun" is usually called sin but if it's not a sin then the Christians are doing it as well. I submit to you that there is a place of pleasure and enjoyment that comes only from God.

John 10:10 The devil comes only to steal, kill and destroy. I came so you can have real and eternal life, more and better life than you ever dreamed of.

So, God has prepared a custom made life for everyone of His children. We will never know anything about this life until we begin to live it, until we surrender to Him. This is a secret life but only to those who are yet to be born-again.

Psalm 5:12 For You O Lord bless the righteous; You crown them from head to toe with favor.

When you have a steady flow of God's favor in your life it's like heaven on earth. All kinds of people every day giving you things and doing things for you and they don't know why. God wants to bless His people, the world has no clue and the church isn't entirely convinced yet. How can God bless us if we don't believe or expect Him to do so? Believe your Heavenly Father and allow Him to bless you.

" I came so that
you may have

life —  and live it

more
abundantly. "

John 10:10

