

Refuse to Live Without Rejoicing

Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies... Deuteronomy 28:47-48.

God didn't send His Son to die on the cross so that we could live a life of disgruntled obedience and sad sanctification. He is looking for the yielding of our hearts to Him in rejoicing so that His joy becomes our norm. To someone delivered out of the devil's domain of darkness into the kingdom of light and love Paul's command to *Rejoice always again I say rejoice* should seem very reasonable. Paul knew that if we would just open the door by rejoicing, especially when we don't feel like it, heavenly joy would flow in. Rejoicing is to be our lifestyle and mourning only for the moment. Mourning with those who mourn, at times is necessary but it is the exception not the rule. Nehemiah revealed the outcome of making the choice to rejoice, *Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength*. Dedicate your heart to the cause of rejoicing and your enemies will have no power over you.