

Sound mind 4

To complete something is a big deal. There is a sense of accomplishment. A job well done. Certificates, degrees, licenses and finally some sort of celebration that the work is finished. The course is complete. Video games and even the work place have capitalized on this sense of accomplishment to motivate people to keep going. Badging or “leveling up” are methods that keep a person engaged and constantly pursuing more. This sense of accomplishment is the motivation behind those who make “to do” lists. For me, physical labor brings with it instant gratification, to see the progress of my work is fulfilling. To see the before and after is satisfying. Although, with all such work there is no end. But, in Jesus there is a work that is completely finished! A completed work that we can rest in, a completed work that we can celebrate and find our joy in.

Back in Nehemiah’s day, the completion of the wall was something to be celebrated. It was a time to rejoice in what the Lord had accomplished through His people. Upon completion of the wall there was a “dedication” or “consecration”. This would be like an ordination of a pastor who has responded to God’s call and “prepared” himself to serve God exclusively, like a doctor who becomes licensed to practice medicine. For us as believers, to have a sound mind is to be complete in Christ. To **rejoice** in that finished work and to then live our lives dedicated to Him.

A completed work is something to celebrate

Neh 12:27 Now at **the dedication** of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites from all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem so that they might celebrate the dedication with gladness, with hymns of thanksgiving and with songs to the accompaniment of cymbals, harps and lyres.

Neh 12:43 and on that day they offered great sacrifices and rejoiced because **God had given them great joy**, and the women and children rejoiced as well, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard from far away.

The finished wall brought a sense of peace with God, things were restored. There is a Greek word in the New Testament for the word peace that means “set at one again”.

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and **peace** and **joy** in the Holy Spirit.

Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD anointed me To bring good news to the humble; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim release to captives And freedom to prisoners;

Isa 61:2 To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

Isa 61:3 To grant those who mourn *in Zion*, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The **oil of gladness** instead of mourning, The cloak of praise instead of a disheartened spirit. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

To be set at peace with God is to be in His presence, the source of Joy. Jesus' joy was found in the face of the father and ours is found in Him! The Joy of the Lord is our strength! (Neh 8:10)

Psa 21:6 For You make him most blessed forever; You make him **joyful** with the joy of Your presence.

Psa 89:15 Blessed are the people who know **the joyful sound!** LORD, they walk in the light of Your face.

Psa 30:11 You have turned my mourning into dancing for me; You have untied my sackcloth and encircled me with joy,

Peace and joy in the Holy Spirit – to choose to listen to the Holy Spirit is to choose joy. It is the Holy Spirit that wells up in a believer let us not quench or grieve Him for He is the oil of gladness. It is by the Spirit that we can say "it is well with my soul." Sorrowful yet always rejoicing.

Praise and thanksgiving at ALL times?

Let those who boast of a completed wall or sound mind boast in the Lord!

Psa 34:1 *A Psalm of David, when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed.* I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psa 34:2 **My soul will make its boast in the LORD;** The humble will hear it and rejoice.

Psa 34:3 Exalt the LORD with me, And let's exalt His name together.

Psa 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart triumphs, And with my song I shall thank Him.

Praise and thanksgiving to God is the key to contentment

And quite possibly the end of opinionated disagreements... Euodia and Syntyche, I think Paul was talking to you.

Php 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Php 4:11 Not that I speak from need, for I have learned to be content in whatever *circumstances* I am.

Php 4:12 I know how to get along with little, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every *circumstance* I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

Php 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Our dependency is on God... when the wall is completed and dedicated, God gives great joy! Peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit. A mind guarded in Christ Jesus will give us joy.

Our Joy is set on Christ and not on our circumstance. If we have Him we have everything! We need only to look at Paul and Silas for example:

Act 16:23 When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely;

Act 16:24 and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Act 16:25 Now about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and **singing hymns of praise to God**, and the prisoners were listening to them;

Evil days require a lot of rejoicing

Eph 5:17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.

Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual

songs, singing and **making melody with your hearts to the Lord;**
Eph 5:20 **always** giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord
Jesus Christ to *our* God and Father;
Eph 5:21 and subject yourselves to one another in the fear of Christ.

Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with **all joy** and
peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of
the Holy Spirit.