

MORE THAN A FEELING

JOY

PART 1

Obedience and Glorification

READ: ROMANS 15:7-13

INTRODUCTION

God's ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. This means that He doesn't get joy from the same things that we do either. His joy comes from us living obedient lives and serving Him with all of our heart, mind, and strength. His Son came to this earth and gave us the perfect example of what it means to be obedient to the Father, even unto death. (Philippians 2:8) This obedience is one of the main ways that we can also bring joy to God.

Jesus said that if we love Him, we should follow His commands in John 14:15. This means that we not only get joy out of our obedience to Him but also that we show Him and prove that we love Him through the practical application of following His commandments. It doesn't make Him love us more but it does show that we care more about what He has to say and His direction rather than that of the world. The enemy is prowling around like a lion seeking whom he can devour and when we do not follow God's commands, it makes it much easier for the enemy to catch us.

Our obedience regarding God's commands also gives God glory. Our entire purpose for being is to bring God and give God all the glory that is due Him. That means that we will obey His commands and be a people that glorifies Him through our works. Many feel that this is works based salvation but, in reality, it is showing our love for what God has done by being loyal and faithful to Him and His Word. This is not a salvific issue but one of love and obedience.

MORE THAN A FEELING

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean that Gentiles are now able to be saved through Jesus Christ?
2. If obedience and glorification bring God joy, how can we better make sure that our lives emulate the will of the Father?
3. How does obedience show love?
4. Where do we find the “commands” that we are to follow? Why is it so important to dwell in the Word of God?
5. Obedience can be hard when we feel like we are adults that don’t need rules. What are some of the reasons God has given us some of the commands that He has given to us to follow?

WRAP UP

God’s joy is not predicated on our actions. His emotions are not subject to us. We have some influence over whether or not He takes joy in us and our lives however. There is always room for improvement and we should always be looking to follow Him more closely. A close, intimate relationship with God is the most important thing that we should pursue in this life.