

GOD MY EXCEEDING JOY

I. What is God like?

A. Eph. 5:1 – We are to be imitators of God as His dear children

B. Ps. 43:3, 4 - One of the many names of God “The God of Gladness & Rejoicing”

C. Neh. 8:10 - The “joy of the Lord.” Whose joy is it?

D. Ps. 2:1-4; 37:12, 13 God laughs at His enemies feeble attempts to stop His plans

1. Some say God laughs at His enemies because He is so powerful, He is in a superior position far above them, and knows how things will turn out.
2. Eph. 2:6 God laughs & so can we from our superior position in Christ
3. This is not to minimize your pain or difficulties, for they are real. It is a way to battle the devil’s lie that things are hopeless and will never change.

II. There is a laughter born of faith

A. Gen. 17:17; 18:21; 21:5, 6 - You cannot separate joy from faith and laughter from joy.

Isaac, the son of Abraham/Sarah’s faith means “laughter or one who laughs”

B. Job. 8:21; Ps. 126:2 - There is a laughter born of faith in the face of adversity, God can bring us into. There is a faith that can put a smile on your face and laughter in your heart

C. Pr. 17:22 – A merry heart can not only come from the joy of our faith but also have a medicinal effect. “ A joyful heart worketh an excellent cure.” “A cheerful heart makes a quick recovery.”