

Where Does Your Joy Come From

God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.

~CS Lewis

Over the years I've had so many people ask me about my upbringing on Vancouver Island. Most ask why I would ever leave and if I miss it there...

"But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior."

Philippians 3:20 NLT

I have to be honest I do love it there and I most definitely miss the beauty and of course the warm temperatures...

"And if the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey."

Numbers 14:8 NLT

I miss friends and family too. The distance between myself and friends and family over the years has definitely not always been easy...

"The LORD is close to the broken hearted, and he saves those whose spirits have been crushed."

Psalms 34:18 NCV

For many years deep inside of me longed to be back on the island. I thought that being back on the Island would bring inner peace and happiness and so I longed for the day that I would return to my Island paradise...

"The world and everything that people want in it are passing away, but the person who does what God wants lives forever."

1 John 2:17 NCV

At one point my "home sickness" got so bad that I cried out to God to help me and He most certainly did...

"I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along."

Psalms 40:1-2 NLT

He told me that my joy and peace doesn't come from a place or anything of this world actually, it comes from Him...

"The intense pleasure you give me surpasses the gladness of harvest time, even more than when the harvesters gaze upon their ripened grain and when their new wine overflows."

Psalms 4:7 TPT

He told me that I can be extremely happy and have unbelievable peace right here, right now, wherever I am...

“Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and though you do not even see Him now, you believe and trust in Him and you greatly rejoice and delight with inexpressible and glorious joy,”

1 Peter 1:8 AMP

He led me through His Word to several verses that showed me that the Peace and Joy I was looking for was available to me all along, all I had to do was receive it...

“Until now you’ve not been bold enough to ask the Father for a single thing in my name, but now you can ask, and keep on asking him! And you can be sure that you’ll receive what you ask for, and your joy will have no limits!”

John 16:24 TPT

And receive it I did! From that day on (many years ago), I have received the peace and joy that only God can give and honestly, I have been truly happy every day since...

“I have told you these things so that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy may be made full and complete and overflowing.”

John 15:11 AMP

If someone had told me that my homesickness could be cured overnight through God, I would have told them they didn’t understand and that they were crazy. But I am living proof that we have a truly amazing God who can do anything...

Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.”

Matthew 19:26 NLT

I now live in a place with God where the peace and the joy are so fulfilling that I no longer long for any place or any person or any thing to bring me happiness...

“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore.”

Psalms 16:11 AMP

It’s almost unbelievable to me that His Joy and Peace are available to fill us each and every day and through all circumstances...

“Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!”

Habakkuk 3:17-18 NLT

My prayer for us today is that our eyes may be opened to the truth that our true Joy and Peace come solely from God and no where else. May we be filled to overflowing everyday of our lives so that there may be no room for longing for anything else, just for Him...

““So you’ll go out in joy, you’ll be led into a whole and complete life. The mountains and hills will lead the parade, bursting with song. All the trees of the forest will join the procession, exuberant with applause. No more thistles, but giant sequoias, no more thornbushes, but stately pines— Monuments to me, to GOD, living and lasting evidence of GOD.””

Isaiah 55:12-13 MSG

Amen

