

April 6, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

John 16:22 *So with you; Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. (NIV)*

Our LORD knows that in this world, we will have trouble. We will suffer. There will be pain. This is all because of our sin. Someone asked me a while back: Why are there wars and people dying or people suffering in this world? I have to remind them that it is not the LORD's fault. He created a perfect world. We are the ones who messed it up. We have all sinned. We have all missed the mark. And as a result, we will all face grief. Jesus was sharing with His disciples that they would also face a time of grief when they would see Him no more. He was facing the cruel sentence of the Roman crucifixion. And as horrible as that would be, the worst part was that He Who had never sinned would take on the sins of the whole world and pay the penalty for those sins.

This message was weighing heavy on the disciples. They couldn't imagine not having Jesus to see, to listen to, to watch and to talk to. But Jesus also reminded them that they would not be left alone. In fact, He told them that He would send the Holy Spirit to be with them and that they would be His witnesses. And then listen to this encouraging word from the Master in **v. 33** *"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* (NIV)

And here is the clincher. Jesus told them that this is not the end. It's just the beginning of rejoicing that will last for eternity. They would see Him again. In fact, so will we. And here it is: NO ONE will take away our joy!

Dear LORD, help us to live in Your joy right now. You have given us all things. You have blessed us. You have purchased us. You are preparing a place for us, and You will come to take us to be with You. Hallelujah! In Jesus Name, Amen