

July 6, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Isa. 55:12 *You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.* (NIV)

The two greatest manifestations that you are living in the abundant life of the LORD are *joy* and *peace*. These are two signs of God's presence in and upon your life. When someone turns to the Father, listens to Him, and His Word does His work in them, joy and peace are always the manifestations of that. For you see, we can't help but be filled with the inexpressible joy that must be shared with others. And this joy brings the peace that everyone needs but most do not find. It also brings to light the meaning of what the angels were proclaiming at the birth of Jesus. **Luke 2:13-14** *Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."* (NIV)

Is the favor of the LORD resting upon you? You will know it by His peace. The joy of the Lord is our strength. He loves you and wants to bless you. Our hope is in Him alone. There is no greater peace than in His presence. I remember when I was six and a half, we moved in with my Grandparents. It was there on the farm that I began to experience peace for the first time. My first six years were full of strife and heartache. But now, in my Grandparent's home, there was love and acceptance and peace. There was a lot of hard work, but it was for someone that I knew loved me and cared about me. My Grandpa was a good, hard-working farmer. He showed me his love through his patience with me. I needed it. I was a mixed-up young boy who needed a 'father' to show me the way. He did. But not only that, I remember him sitting in his chair in the living room and he would invite me to come sit in his lap. It was there, with his strong arms around me, that I felt safe and loved, and the bad memories I had, began to fade into the distance in His loving arms. And that, my friends, is a picture of our Heavenly Father. He invites us to come into His embrace and know that we are loved and at peace. There is no greater joy than that.

Dear LORD, thank You for Your great love for us. We can go out in joy and be led by Your peace in our lives. The result is that others will see Your power in this world. Help us to walk faithfully in You. In Jesus Name, Amen