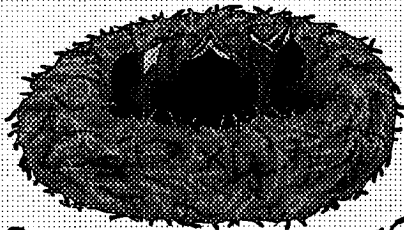
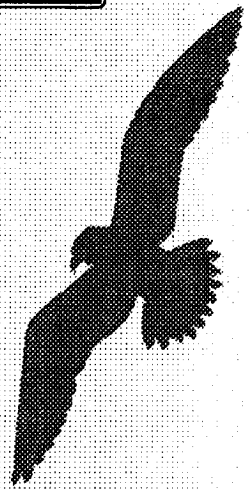


*"They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles."
Isaiah 40:31*



AERY NUGGETS

"The joy of the Lord is your strength." "Restore unto me the joy of your salvation." Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 51:12.

None But Christ Can Satisfy!

"O Christ, in Thee my soul hath found,
And found in Thee alone,
The peace, the joy I sought so long,
The bliss till now unknown.

I sighed for rest and happiness,
I yearned for them, not Thee;
But while I passed my Savior by,
His love laid hold on me.

I tried the broken cisterns, Lord,
But ah! the waters failed!
E'en as I stooped to drink they'd fled,
And mocked me as I wailed.

The pleasures lost I sadly mourned,
But never wept for Thee,
Till grace the sightless eyes received,
Thy loveliness to see.

Now none but Christ can satisfy,
None other name for me;
There's love, and life, and lasting joy,
Lord Jesus, found in Thee."

B.E.

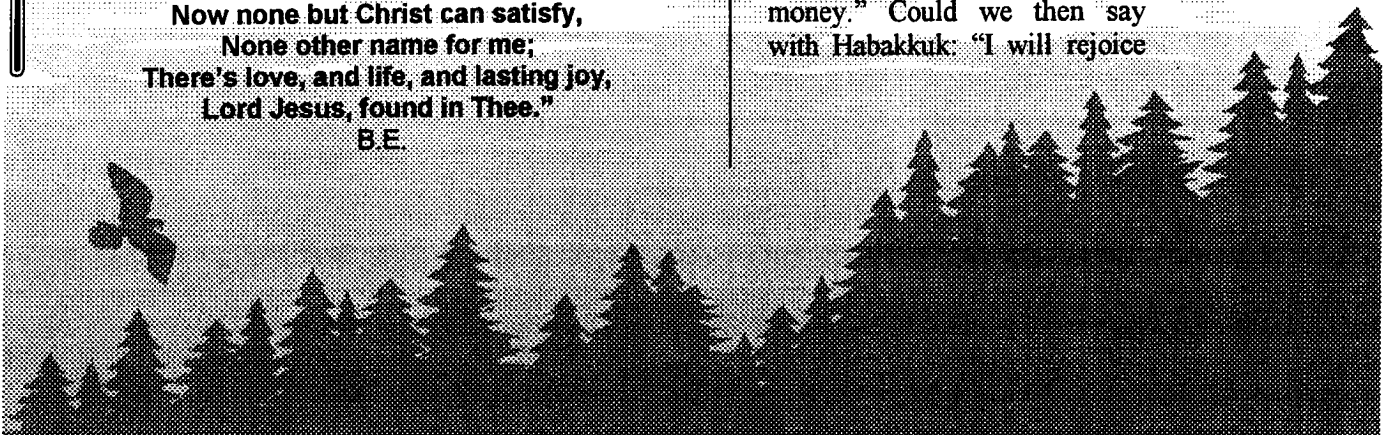
**"O joy of the justified! Joy of the free!
I'll sing of my Savior, who died on the tree!
Thro' Christ my Redeemer rejoicing I stand,
Being saved by His grace, and secure in His hand."**

**"Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing
instant in prayer."
Romans 12:12.**

Dear Friends,

My attention was recently directed to the verse: "The joy of the Lord is your strength." If that joy is absent in our life then we have no strength to serve Him or to be a good testimony for Him. True joy is not dependent on good things happening to us. Habakkuk wrote these words in chapter 3. "Though the fig tree should not blossom, and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail, and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold, and there be no cattle in the stalls, yet will I exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation."

In our language today we would say: "There is nothing in the refrigerator, the cupboards are bare, the grocery stores have all been closed up and I have no money." Could we then say with Habakkuk: "I will rejoice



in the LORD"? There is one epistle in the New Testament that contains the words "joy," "rejoice" or "rejoicing" eighteen times according to my count. This epistle was written by the apostle Paul in a Roman prison. This prison had none of the conveniences that many prisoners have today. Yet Paul rejoiced in the Lord and exhorted the Philippians to "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice." Philippians 4:4.

What can we do if we are not experiencing the joy of the Lord in our lives? Most of us, including myself have had to admit that there are many times when the joy of the Lord is absent in our lives. King David found that out when he had so seriously sinned not only against the Lord but also against others. When he confessed his sin to the Lord his words were: "Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation." Psalm 51:12. Although we may not have committed a sin like David's yet we too need, *first of all* to confess our sins that we might be restored to fellowship with the Lord. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. In our prayer we also need to ask the Lord as David did: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23.

Secondly, we need to take time to sit at Jesus' feet and hear Him speak to us from His Word. We remember what the Lord told Martha in Luke's gospel chapter 10:42. "One thing is needful: and Mary has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." The morning is the best time to do this. When the children of Israel were instructed to gather the manna they had to do this before the sun came up. If they waited until the sun came up the manna had melted. So it is with us. If we wait until the cares, duties and the heat and pressure of the day are upon us we often find that it is harder for us to meditate upon the Word of God and find enjoyment in it. It is easy to get so busy that we do not really spend time with the Lord before we begin each day.

The Word of God brought real joy to the prophet Jeremiah who suffered very much at the hands of a wicked king for his faithfulness. He wrote: "Thy words were found and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy Name, O Lord God of hosts." Jeremiah 15:16.

Thirdly, we must be obedient to God's Word. In the gospel of John chapter 15 the Lord Jesus reminds us of some very precious truths. He tells: **As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you: Continue you in My love.** How do we continue in His love? "If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His Love. These things have I spoken unto you, that My

joy might remain in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:8-11. So not only will our joy be full by the keeping of His commandments but also His joy will remain or abide in us. What more could we ask? By the way one of His commandments is given in John 15:12. We are to love one another, as the Lord has loved us. That almost seems impossible but through the indwelling Spirit we do have the power to do that.

Fourthly, our joy will be full through answered prayer. The Lord Jesus tells us "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My Name: Ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." John 16:24. It is good to remember that asking in the Lord's Name means that we are asking according to His will as representing Him and glorifying Him.

Fifthly, we can experience unspeakable joy. How can that be? It is as we look to the future. Though we may pass through trials, sorrows and disappointments we look forward to the appearing of Jesus Christ: whom having not seen, we love; in Whom, though now we see Him not, yet believing, we can rejoice "with joy unspeakable and full of glory." 1 Peter 1:8.

You may have the joy-bells ringing in your heart
And a peace that from you never will depart;
Walk the straight and narrow way,
Live for Jesus every day,
He will keep the joy-bells ringing your heart.

Love of Jesus in its fullness you may know,
And this love to those around you sweetly show:
Words of kindness always say,
Deeds of mercy do each day,
Then He'll keep the joy-bells ringing in your heart.

You will meet with trials as you journey home,
Grace sufficient He will give to overcome;
Tho' unseen by mortal eyes,
He is with you, ever nigh,
And He'll keep the joy-bells ringing in your heart."

—J. E. Ruark

In His wonderful love,

John D. McNeil

It is of *all importance* that our inner life should be kept up to the height of our outward activity; else we are near some spiritual fault

J.N.D.

For address correction or free new name addition,
write to:

Leslie L. Winters or Christine Albury