

Visions and Revelations Message 4: "The One Who Bore the Prince of Life"

We should be impressed by how much grace and love God has towards us, "the rebellious ones". He chose Mary, a woman of a rebellious race, whose very name means "rebellious one", to conceive our Lord and Savior. This is a picture of God's desire to use fallen man to carry out His purpose. Brothers and sisters, this should make us joyful! God has such grace on us! However, in our Christian lives we may experience the Lord's peace, His mercy, His grace, His love, His tenderness, His kindness, but we don't experience His joy. According to 1 Peter 1:8 we should experience, "Joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory". Joy should be a reality in all of our lives.

We may wonder why we don't feel this joy. One time a brother was told, "You always look like you have a heavy heart". His response was, "Well, being a Christian is hard". He was asked, "Have you experienced joy in the Lord recently?". He replied, "No". He was then encouraged to spend time telling the Lord three times a day that he was joyful in Him, even if he did not feel that way. Brothers and sisters, we should take an active stance to experience joy in the Lord. After all, this is His desire for us! First Thessalonians 5:16 tells us to, "Rejoice always". We may think that the things of this world can make us permanently joyful, but the reality is they can only give us temporary happiness. We need to set our mind on things above and not on things below. Only this way can we experience real joy in the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, we really do have a Lord that is great! But unfortunately His greatness may not be apparent to us. However, He is ruler over all, and He needs to have the highest place in our life. Every decision that we make should be according to His will. If we are not in a place where we can say this, then perhaps this is the reason why we are unable to experience true joy in the Lord. Therefore, we should get on our knees and pray, "Lord I want you to have the highest place in my life! Be great in my life! I want to live according to your will and not my own. I want my soul to magnify you. Let my spirit rejoice in God my Savior!".