

# **The Joy of the Lord is Invulnerable\* and Trumps All Sorrow.**

*\*(Unassailable, impregnable, invincible, immune to and incapable of successful attack or defeat).*

***“Therefore my dearly beloved...Rejoice in the  
Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”***

***“For this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye  
sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”***

**Phil. 4:1,4; Neh. 8:10.**

This is one of the many paradoxes of the Gospel – how we may be at once sorrowful (*“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”* Mat. 5:4) and at the same time rejoicing. But so the Lord hath commanded, and so it shall be – *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”* 2 Cor. 4:6. To-wit: *“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”* Gen. 1:3. Even so, when that same sovereign God commands His elect sons and daughters to mourn and to rejoice simultaneously as it were – rest assured beloved, so it shall be. Undergirding and over-arching every sorrow are comforting supernatural assurances of joy: *“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”* Psa. 30:5.

J.C. Philpot: *“My path, indeed, lies more in the darkness than in the light, more in sighing and seeking after the Lord than in sweetly rejoicing in him, more in the valley than on the mount. I have been led much of late from time to time to cry to the Lord to keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me. I see such sin in my wretched, fallen nature, and feel so much my weakness against temptation, and see at the same time what a horrible and dreadful thing sin is, that I am led from time to time earnestly to call upon the Lord to hold me up that I may be safe. I feel, too, my ignorance in divine things. How dark my mind is when not enlightened by the blessed Spirit. How unable I am to realize any portion of God’s word, to feed upon any one truth, or taste the sweetness of any one promise. And thus I feel myself led to look up for divine teaching, and that the Lord himself would make his blessed truth known to my soul.”*

***“As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing.”*** 2 Cor. 6:10.

***“But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God...(by 9 Great Gospel Paradoxes, including)...As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing.” 2 Cor. 6:4-10.***

“But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, 1) in much patience, 2) in afflictions, 3) in necessities, 4) in distresses, 5) in stripes, 6) in imprisonments, 7) in tumults, 8) in labors, 9) in watchings, 10) in fastings; 11) by pureness, 12) by knowledge, 13) by longsuffering, 14) by kindness, 15) by the Holy Ghost, 16) by love unfeigned, 17) by the word of truth, 18) by the power of God, 19) by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

(Here begin – at 2 Cor. 6:8-10 – the 9 Great Gospel Paradoxes)

- “1) By honor and dishonor,
- “2) by evil report and good report;
- “3) as deceivers, and yet true;
- “4) As unknown , and yet well known;
- “5) as dying, and, behold, we live;
- “6) as chastened, and not killed;
- “7) As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing;
- “8) as poor, yet making many rich;
- “9) as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”

**J.C. Philpot: (from his Letter to Oxford resigning as minister from the Church of England due to corruption)**

“Mr. Provost: I beg leave to resign the Fellowship of Worcester College, to which I was elected in the year 1826 (Philpot was elected to this prestigious position at age 24 and resigned in 1835 at age 33 at great cost and sacrifice). This step I am compelled to take because I can no longer with a good conscience continue a Minister or a Member of the Established Church. (NOTE: This is such as brings great persecution to God’s elect).

After great and numerous trials of mind, I am, as I trust, led by the hand of God thus to separate myself from that corrupt and worldly system, called the Church of England. Her errors and corruptions, as well as her utter contrariety to a Gospel Church as revealed in the New Testament, have been for two or three years gradually opening upon my mind. But though I have thus slowly and by degrees obtained light from above to see the Established Church somewhat in her true colors, it is, I confess, only but very lately that the sin of remaining in her has been forcibly laid upon my conscience. I have felt of late that, by continuing one of her ministers, I was upholding what in the sight of the holy Jehovah is hateful and loathsome. I have felt that, by

standing up in her pulpit, I was sanctioning a system in principle and practice, in root and branches, corrupt before God. I have felt that I was keeping those children of God who sat under my ministry in total darkness as to the nature of a true Gospel Church. I have felt that both I myself, and the spiritual people that attended my ministry, were, in principle and system, mixed up with the ungodly, the Pharisee, the formalist, the worldling, and the hypocrite. And thus, whilst I remained in the Church of England, my principles and my practice, my profession and my conduct, my preaching and my acting, were inconsistent with each other.”

***“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”***

**2 Cor. 6:17-18.**

***“Of whom the world was not worthy.”*** Heb. 11:38.

Dr. Joseph Henry Philpot, M.D. (1850-1940, son of J.C. Philpot (1802-1869), writing about his deceased father and minister-friend William Tiptaft (1803-1864):

“Despised and ‘disallowed indeed of men’, self-separated as far as is humanly possible from a hostile world, following Christ, to quote my father, ‘not in respectability and honor, with maces and organs and greetings in the market-place, and “Rabbi, Rabbi,” but in contempt and shame’, they were nevertheless fashioned, I venture to claim, on the pattern of the prophets and the saints of old, who also had no honor in their own time and tribe, because they would not bow down to the idols of the day.

“They had given up almost everything men value for what they felt to be the truth, and like all who are guided by the Holy Spirit in the footsteps of their Lord, they had their full share of trials and afflictions, of doubts and misgivings. Yet had they their recompense. For, as my father was able to affirm out of a long experience,

***“The life of faith is the most blessed that a man can lead upon earth’.”***

Lk. 18:28-30: *“Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God’s sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time (Mark adds, ‘with persecutions’), and in the world to come life everlasting.”*

1 Tim. 4:8: *“Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and that which is to come.”*

**“And they overcame him – (‘that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world’) – by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice.” Rev. 12:11.**

J.C. Philpot’s sister (Mrs. F.M. Isbell) wrote to a friend on Feb. 1, 1867, saying:

“We are both hastening to the silent tomb, and the things of time are fast passing away. May we, as our end draws near, be longing for his appearing, that we may be able to say, ‘This is my God; I have waited for him.’ But the days of darkness I find are many; and I sometimes feel shut out from all feeling that the Son of God is indeed my Redeemer. They are painful seasons, but needful; as scripture tells me that it is the tribulative path which leads to eternal glory, and this path I would not shun, knowing from experience that the sweets follow the bitters. I believe none know its (Hell’s) horrors and terrors but those who have been plucked as brands from the burning.”

Another old anonymous letter-writer says this: “I do feel at times it is a solemn matter to be drawing near to eternity, for the most of my time I am walking in darkness. I want to love the Lord, his people, and his ways; but my heart is like a stone. I know not one gleam of real happiness unless when favored for a few minutes in my soul (and that is not often), and afterwards it is disputed, so that I cannot lift myself up, and bless and praise the Lord as I have been enabled to do in years gone by. But after all, dear friend, we have to do with an unchanging God, who is not moved by our changing frames and feelings. No, no; whom once he loves, he loves unto the end.

“Did Jesus once upon thee shine?  
Then Jesus is for ever thine.”

**“When Jesus knew that his hour was come...having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.”**

**Jn. 13:1.**

## **WALKING IN DARKNESS**

**Isa. 50:10-11**: “Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.

“Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.”

## **WALKING IN LIGHT**

**Isa. 8:20**: “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”

**1 Jn. 1:7**: “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

**Prov. 4:18-19**: “But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. (19) “The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.”

**Psa. 97:11**: “Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.”

**Isa. 51:12-13, 15-16**: “I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; And forgettest the Lord thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?”

“But I am the Lord thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: the Lord of hosts is his name. And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.”

**2 Chron. 20:12**: “O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.”

**The Old Testament prophets had it revealed to them that they were not ministering only or even primarily to their contemporaries – but that they were ministering to us: “Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister.” 1 Pet. 1:10-12. (E.g., Jer. 50:30, Ob. 1:1.)**

**The Spirit of Christ was in them, testifying beforehand our sufferings for the cause of Christ (for prophesying the doom of America, for example) “and the glory that should follow.” 1 Pet. 1:11.**