

**THE MASTERCRAFT:**

**“THE RIVER OF JOY”**

**NOV 01, 2020**

# THE RIVER OF JOY

**TEXT: Psalm 46: “<sup>4</sup> there is a river of joy flowing through the city of our God”  
JOHN 4:14**

“whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him **a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**”

**ISAIAH 54:15**

“no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their **vindication** from me, declares the LORD.”

**JUDE 1:24**

<sup>24</sup> **He is able to keep you from stumbling** and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy”

**Psalm 16:11: He will** show you the path of life; in His presence *is* fullness of joy; and at His right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.”

**We are talking about “The River of Joy”.**

It is “The” River; it is not “a” River.

There is only one river that gives joy. That one river is called “The River of Joy”.

**According to Matthew 22:37-40, we will get this River of Joy if we**

**“<sup>37</sup> Love the Lord your God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind.’**

**<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment.”**

**Brethren,** Reason it is the first and greatest is that it is the only condition for God to give us water to drink, which will become in us **a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:14.** Without this water, we cannot even understand the scripture.

**In Jeremiah 24:7,** “God said: “I will give them a heart to know Me; they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.”

**In John 16, Jesus said:** “**13**when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will declare to you what is to come.

## What Happens to Those Who are Enjoying the River of Joy?

**1. They pray and sing in both the spirit (tongues) and in their mind (1 Corinthians 14:14)**

“**14** if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. **15**What then shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.

**1 Corinthians 14:**

<sup>2</sup> For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God....<sup>3</sup> But the one who prophesies (speaks with mind and mouth) speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.

**2. They are active for God – commit to something because of their salvation**

**Philippians 2:12** “Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, ..., continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. **13**For it is God who works in you to will and to act on behalf of His good purpose.

## 12 Corinthians 7:15 says

“And His affection for you is even greater when He remembers that you were obedient as you welcomed Him with fear and trembling.”

## 3. They never allow their well to run dry (Isaiah 18:11)

“The LORD will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring.”

**Brethren**, Knowing the power of “The River of Joy” made David sing in **Psalms 51:**

**10-13** “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew the right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the **joy of Your salvation**, And uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit.”

<sup>13</sup> *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.



#### **4. They are eager/zealous and give others the water in them**

**John 7, Jesus said:** <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them”

**Ephesians 5:** “<sup>1</sup> Follow God’s example ... <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

#### **5. They focus on pleasing God**

Eph 5: “<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them. ... you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord.”

#### **6. They continue to receive Mercy and Grace from God in spite of what is going on**

Jeremiah 31:3, said “the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.”

# Conclusion

## Psalm 46:4-6

“<sup>4</sup> There is **a river of joy flowing through the city of our God**—the sacred home of the God above all gods.” <sup>5</sup> God himself is living in that city; therefore it stands unmoved despite the turmoil everywhere. He will not delay his help. <sup>6</sup> The nations rant and rave in anger—but when God speaks, the earth melts in submission and kingdoms totter into ruin.

**Brethren**, anyone that allows this river to flow into him or her, gets a private connection with the throne of God and, therefore, gets access to mercy and grace very quickly.

The day we get saved, Jesus bears our sins and gives us free right to receive this River of Joy. But He warns to protect our access/salvation with fear and trembling.

Isaiah 30:13 warns “this sin will become for you like a high wall, cracked and bulging, that collapses suddenly, in an instant.” .... the river dries up leading to death.

**Prayer:** If you are already saved, let's ask God for mercy and refreshing of your river of joy. If you are not yet saved, ask God for gift of salvation and access to the river of joy.

**GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**