

Something to Pray About

By Cindy Sears – May 2008

Living Joyfully in the Lord

Jesus said . “I came that they may have life and have it in abundance.” (John 10:10b, HCSB) As Christians, we can live our lives with joy. How?

1. **Accept the gift of grace.** Don't be one of the enlightened ones of Hebrews 6:4. This is not just a head belief, but a heart belief. You don't work for it, nor earn it, nor buy it. It is a gift from God. (Ephesians 2:9) Open your hands, your heart, your life and accept the gift Christ freely gives.
2. **Confess your sins, repent, and let the guilt go.** “I will remember their sins no more.” (Hebrews 8:12b, NRSV) God wipes the slate clean, why can't you? We humans tend to rank sins, but to God all sin is loathsome. You are no worse or better than anyone else in God's eyes. Once He washes you clean, makes you “blameless”—let it go and move forward in Christ. There is no shame in Christ. (Isaiah 1:18) (Ephesians 1:3-5)
3. **Forgive others as you have been forgiven.** (Matthew 6:12,14) As you let go of your own past sins and mistakes, also let go of the sins of others that have hurt you. Resentment and regret are burdens that you bear to your own sorrow and harm. “Vengeance is mine,” saith the Lord. “I will repay.” With God on your side, who can stand against you? God has forgiven you, so forgive others. This is one reason a Christian's burden is light—we do not carry around past mistakes or hurts. “For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matt. 11:30)
4. **Stop doing it yourself.** Take His yoke upon you. Let Him lead. Let the Holy Spirit have control and lean on His power—not your own power or strategies. You are never alone with His Spirit in you. (John 14:15-18)
5. **Meditate on God's Word day and night** and accept His promises into your heart. Fear the Lord and fear of the world and its problems will ease. Rest in the knowledge that God is in control. (Psalm 1:2) (Isaiah 26:3-4)
6. **Pray without ceasing.** (1 Thess. 5:17) Commune with God daily.
7. **Obey.** When we live in obedience to the Lord, we are free to live with joy— because, when we live according to God's plan, we live as we were made to live. We use all our God-given skills, talents and desires in the best way possible—for God's purposes and for ourselves. Be holy. **“If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land.” (Isaiah 1:19,NRSV)** And (Isaiah 1:18-20; 66:1-2) (1 Peter 1:13-15) C. Sears 4/28/08

