



A Joy that Cannot be Taken Away ...

~Nicole Ko

In John 16:20-24 · Jesus told His disciples before His arrest: *“You will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.”*

Many people think that sadness is bad, and happiness is good. It’s true. Who likes to frown day in and day out? But we have all experienced sorrow that comes out of our control. Faced with such a contradictory situation, how can Christians overcome sorrow and have joy?

1. The Coexistence of Sorrow and Joy

The disciples were sad because of Jesus' upcoming departure and His death. But later, they will change from sadness to joy because of Jesus' resurrection. We often have the wrong idea that sorrow is the enemy of joy, but instead of rebuking the disciples for their sorrow, the Lord brought hope by reminding them of His resurrection.

If you want to be happy, first of all don't be afraid and sad. The enemy of joy is not sorrow, but the lack of hope. Christians do not rely on the Lord to eliminate sorrow, but rather, to overcome it. Only by understanding sorrow correctly can they still live out the joy of hope in the midst of sorrow.

2. Christian's Joy Goes Through Sorrow

- Life changes will bring painful experiences

Christians' joy must go through sorrow. In Ezekiel 36:26, it said, *“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”*

It will definitely hurt when a heart of stone becomes a heart of flesh. Just like the path of the cross that each of us takes, our old selves brought to us wrong understandings, wrong values, wrong habits, and wrong practices waiting to be crushed, which will bring struggle and pain. But this grief is beneficial to us. It helps us to change the direction of our hearts and minds. In II Corinthians 7, it said, *“For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.”*

- Sorrow is the beacon of the heart

Worry is an inner reaction, a self-knowledge. What do we value? That is very likely the cause of our sorrow. Do we put some things on such a high level that should not be there? Could there be some misleading so that problems keep showing up? Ask the Lord to help us. Let sorrow become an opportunity to know ourselves more and turn ourselves around through the Lord, so that we can move towards true joy.

3. Christian Joy is Ever-increasing

Jesus said that when the disciples were sad, the world was happy. This shows that the standard of joy for the world and the joy of Christians must be different. Although whether we believe in the Lord or not, we may be happy for our children to be admitted to the ideal school. We are happy with the solution of our problems. But we must know that the nature of Christians' joy is different from the world and that it will only increase. Jesus clearly told His disciples that the joy they would have in the future is the joy from Jesus' resurrection. Christians' joy is based on the hope, comfort, and peace of Jesus' resurrection.

The 19th-century bishop of Liverpool, J.C. Ryle, pointed out why assurance of salvation is a source of joy. He said, "Assurance of salvation not only frees God's children from their painful bondage, but also gives them great comfort. Assurance of salvation makes them feel that the most important things in life have been settled and the greatest debts paid. The most serious disease is cured, the most important work is done, and all other things, diseases, debts, and work are trivial in comparison."

During our serving, we accompanied a certain non-believer. When we first met her, she was still grieving deeply of her husband's death and couldn't get out of it. She cleansed her face with tears every day. In the past, she only needed to cook, picked up the children to and from school, and everything else was done by her husband. Now all things in the family fall on her shoulders alone. Not only does she have to face the pain brought by her husband's death, but also to face the upbringing of

CIM Board of Directors

Rev. Yoman Man (Chicago)
Rev. Andrew Ho (L.A.)
Rev. Samuel Law (Houston)
Peter Chang (Milpitas)
Theresa Poon (Cupertino)
David Chiang (San Jose)
Christine Pi (Bay Area)

Rev. Joseph Lee

CIM Canada Executive Director

Rev. Isaac Quan

CIM Australia Board of Directors Chair

Rev. Sunny Tse

CIM Brazil Committee Chair

Rev. Jorge Loo
Committee Vice Chair
Minister Yeh Dan Liuson

CIM Staff Executive Director

Administrative Assistant

Alice Wong (Part time)

Editor

Debbie Cheng (Part time)

[P.O.Box 700185](mailto:info@cimusa.org)

[San Jose](mailto:info@cimusa.org)

[CA 95170-0185 · USA](mailto:info@cimusa.org)

[TEL \(408\) 489-3508](tel:4084893508)

www.cimusa.org

her son, and to deal with the big and small things in the family. She is often irritable and melancholy because of these problems. Later, she got to know Jesus, and the Holy Spirit worked in her heart. She often experienced unspeakable joy when she faced difficulties and prayed to Jesus. She shared that there were still a lot of unresolved things, but when she thought about Jesus' much love for her, she is very moved and happy, and she doesn't think about the difficulties in front of her. She said she leaves it all to Jesus! Now she is close to God in spiritual practice every day. Although she still encounters many problems to solve, every time when I chat with her, she can deeply feel the joy that is brought by being full of hope and completely entrusting God! Not only for this sister. In the mission and serving field, many brothers and sisters have witness this joy that the Gospel brings to them.

In Philippians 4:4, it said, *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. May we all rely on the Lord to rejoice in our serving, and at the same time let more people gain the joy that God grants through the Gospel.*

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. For Rev. Douglas Wu as they have begun to gradually resume in-person gatherings, while they still continue to provide online access. Pray that the Lord will keep them strong in body and mind, and the Lord will give them enough grace, keeping their spiritual practice and prayer life persistent and normal.
2. Please pray for physical gatherings of the San Teng Chinese Church in Jo'burg to resume! At present, if everyone shows up, including three from Rev. Wu's family, there are about 12 (including 3 children). They hope to start worship in early May. May the Lord accomplish.
3. May the brothers and sisters who come to attend the in-person gathering in Rustenburg be protected by God from the infection of the new COVID variant and give them peace.
4. Pray for Whitney's health. The doctor said that her physical exam indexes were high. He recommended her to return to Taiwan for a GYN follow-up when the country reopens.
5. The epidemic prevention and control measures in many places in China have been very strict recently. The cities where the parents of Pastor Alex and Whitney Ko are located have also begun to be partially blocked. Please pray that the Lord will take care of the safety of their parents.
6. Samuel and Issaca have often been ill in recent months. Please ask the Lord to surround them and keep their family healthy.
7. Please pray for Rev Jorge Loo and his wife with their short-term medical mission trip to Santa Cruz in Bolivia from May 27 to June 6.
8. Pray for the Belo Horizonte Chinese Baptist Church ministries. Pray for God to give wisdom to Rev Loo, and also to raise up more co-workers for that church.
9. For the prosperity of the Belen Chinese Christian Church, May God call the Chinese Diaspora who are already Christians to gather together.
10. Please continue to pray for Ukraine. Two coworkers from House of Mercy with CIM Canada recently lost their parents. Pray for comfort.
11. Pray for the right time for the next mission trip for CIM Canada. So far, no one has shown interest in going.
12. **Pray for the recruiting effort underway to fill job vacancies in CIM for a Director of Ministry to oversee STM and daily operations**, and an Executive Director successor. If you know of anyone who is interested and qualifies, please contact us.
13. Pray that God will move more brothers and sisters to join the ministry so God's kingdom would be more prosperous. Pray for God's abundant provision for all the financial needs of CIM.

NOTE

Please call 408-596-4567 to contact CIM for questions or comments. Thank you for your continual support.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mar 2022

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General	\$18,598	\$5,084	\$13,514
Missions	\$30,653	\$34,528	-\$3,875
Total	<u>\$49,251</u>	<u>\$39,612</u>	<u>\$9,639</u>

To contribute to CIM ministries:

1) Make checks payable to “CIM” and mail to: P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA

2) Donate online via credit card, go to: www.cimusa.org Click on “Give” and follow directions. Thank you!



P. O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185 · USA

TEL : 408 -596-4567 www.cimusa.org

E-mail : cimusa1992@gmail.com