



# The Spheres of Joy - James Lee

Friday, April 06, 2007  
7:29 PM









**Key Verse:**  
 **1 Peter 1:6-8**

**Theme: Rejoice Amidst Suffering**

## Important Points:

- ★ We fail to realize that sometimes there is someone next to us that is one conversation away from breaking down
- ⚡ Our problems seem so big to us because ***we forget that we deserve hell.***
- ★ Realize that even our little bit of pain is overwhelmed by the agony of the cross.
- ★ God ordained trials to be necessary so that we can be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ
- ⚡ Remember your ultimate destination! Remember your future glory. Rejoice in the sphere of your future salvation.
- ★ Anxiety kills us because we don't know what's going to happen in the future and we cannot control the present... sometimes we do not believe that God is sovereign, and we forget that we are Christians because we cannot see Him... this cannot be. Because as Christians we do not see God with our eyes but with our faith.
- ★ For the world, when bad things happen they feel bad. When good things happen they feel good. But for the Christian, it *must* be different. God is good all the time.


## Cross References:

-  (Psa 6:6) I am weary with my sighing; Every night I make my bed swim, I dissolve my couch with my tears.  
(Psa 6:7) My eye has wasted away with grief; It has become old because of all my adversaries.
-  (Psa 42:11) Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.
-  (2Th 1:6) For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,  
(2Th 1:7) and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,
-  (1Co 1:7) so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,
-  (2Co 5:7) for we walk by faith, not by sight--
-  (Joh 20:29) Jesus \*said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."
-  (1Pe 5:6) Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,  
(1Pe 5:7) casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.
-  (Rom 12:15) Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

## Sermon Notes:

- We fail to realize that sometimes there is someone next to us that is one


conversation away from breaking down

 'The duty of the minister is to preach to different characters. Sometimes we admonish the confident, lest they should become presumptuous; oftentimes we stir up the slumbering, lest they should sleep the sleep of death. Frequently we comfort the desponding, and this is our duty this morning—or if not to comfort them, yet to give them some exhortation which may by God's help be the means of bringing them out of the sad condition into which they have fallen, so that they may not be obliged to cry out for ever—"Oh that I were as in months past!"'  
-- Charles Spurgeon


- Because of our hope of glory, of future salvation... we must rejoice. Because of the hope of glory, we **MUST** rejoice.


### I. Joy in suffering


- Rejoice and keep on rejoicing.
- Tense: middle voice. There is a reciprocal idea.
- Not something that acts upon you, rather it's you that does the rejoicing. You make yourself rejoice.


 (1Pe 1:6) In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

- Circumstances in which you rejoice.
- 3 things that modify:
  - Now
  - Little while
  - Necessary - falls under God's sovereign plan.
- The text tells us:: **if it's necessary, then we'll suffer**
- There are times that we will find this idea as outrageous... it is necessary that I suffer?! Why? It is necessary that my dad abandon us? It is necessary for my loved one to die? It is necessary that my child be taken away from me? It is necessary for me to feel such heartache? It is necessary \_\_\_\_\_??!


 Our problems seem so big to us because ***we forget that we deserve hell.***

 (Psa 6:6) I am weary with my sighing; Every night I make my bed swim, I dissolve my couch with my tears.  
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 (Psa 42:11) Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.

 Realize that even our little bit of pain is overwhelmed by the agony of the cross.

### II. Joy in Salvation

 (1Pe 1:7) so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

- Your faith is precious because it can get you into heaven!! You cannot buy eternal life.
- "may be found" → passive voice. Someone is going to do the finding. The only one who can do that is God.
- "tested" → if there is a test, someone is testing you. That would be God.

- Different from temptation
- God ordained trials to be necessary so that we can be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ
- 📖 (2Th 1:6) For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,
- (2Th 1:7) and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,
- 📖 (1Co 1:7) so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 👉 Remember your ultimate destination! Remember your future glory. Rejoice in the sphere of your future salvation.

### III. Joy in Sightlessness

- 📖 (1Pe 1:8) and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
- Describing our relationship with Jesus Christ
- "love" → *agapaō* present tense. continuous action. We keep loving Christ.
- "believe" → *pisteuō* also in the present tense. We continue to believe in Him.
- ★ Anxiety kills us because we don't know what's going to happen in the future and we cannot control the present... sometimes we do not believe that God is sovereign, and we forget that we are Christians because we cannot see Him... this cannot be. Because as Christians we do not see God with our eyes but with our faith.
- 📖 (2Co 5:7) for we walk by faith, not by sight--
- 📖 (Joh 20:29) Jesus \*said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."
- For the world, when bad things happen they feel bad. When good things happen they feel good. But for the Christian, it *must* be different. God is good all the time.
- "inexpressible" joy → a joy that is from heaven.
- It doesn't make sense to the world when Christians rejoice because everything around us, our circumstances, seem to tell us that we should be in despair.

For those who are hurting:

- 📖 (1Pe 5:6) Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,
- (1Pe 5:7) casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.
- Know that even though you cannot see Him, He cares for you.

For those who are not hurting:

- 📖 (Rom 12:15) Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.