

John 16:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

Analysis

And ye now therefore have sorrow (καὶ ὑμεῖς οὖν νῦν μὲν λύπην ἔχετε/kai hymeis oun nyn men lypēn echete)—Jesus acknowledges present reality. Νῦν (nyn, "now") contrasts with coming joy. He doesn't minimize their grief but validates it as temporary.

But I will see you again (πάλιν δὲ ὄψομαι ὑμᾶς/palin de opsomai hymas)—the future middle voice ὄψομαι (opsomai, "I will see") indicates Jesus's initiative. He will appear to them post-resurrection, not merely they seeking Him. This emphasizes Christ's active role in restoration.

And your heart shall rejoice (καὶ χαρήσεται ὑμῶν ἡ καρδία/kai charēsetai hymōn hē kardia)—future passive voice indicates divine action. God will cause joy to arise within them. Καρδία (kardia, "heart") encompasses mind, will, emotions—the whole inner person transformed.

And your joy no man taketh from you (καὶ τὴν χαρὰν ὑμῶν οὐδεὶς αἶρει ἀφ' ὑμῶν/kai tēn charan hymōn oudeis airei aph' hymōn)—present tense αἶρει (airei, "takes away") with emphatic negative οὐδεὶς (oudeis, "no one") declares the permanence of resurrection joy. Circumstances, persecution, even death cannot remove what Christ's resurrection secures. This is categorical: no person, no power can rob believers of joy rooted in the risen Christ.

Historical Context

Within 72 hours, Jesus's words were vindicated. Sunday morning, He appeared to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18), then the disciples (John 20:19-20). Their sorrow explosively transformed to joy—"Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord" (John 20:20). That joy sustained them through subsequent persecution, imprisonment, and martyrdom. Stephen died rejoicing (Acts 7:59-60), Paul and Silas sang in prison (Acts 16:25), apostles were beaten yet "rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer" (Acts 5:41). Rome crucified Peter, beheaded Paul, exiled John—yet couldn't extinguish their joy. Twenty centuries of church history validate this promise: resurrection joy is indestructible.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between happiness (dependent on circumstances) and joy (rooted in Christ's resurrection), and why can no one take the latter from you?
2. How does Jesus's promise 'I will see you again' provide hope during seasons when God seems absent or distant?
3. In what practical ways can you cultivate resurrection-based joy that circumstances cannot destroy?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ὁμεῖς	οὖν	λύπην	μὲν	νῦν	ἔχετε·	πάλιν	δὲ
And	ye	therefore	sorrow	G3303	now	have	again	but
G2532	G5210	G3767	G3077		G3568	G2192	G3825	G1161
ὄψομαι	ὕμᾱς	καὶ	χαρήσεται	ὕμῶν	ἡ	καρδία	καὶ	τὴν
I will see	you	And	shall rejoice	you	G3588	heart	And	G3588
G3700	G5209	G2532	G5463	G5216		G2588	G2532	
χαρὰν	ὕμῶν	οὐδεὶς	αἴρει	ἀφ'	ὕμῶν			
joy	you	no man	taketh	from	you			
G5479	G5216	G3762	G142	G575	G5216			

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 1:8 (Parallel theme): Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Acts 13:52 (Parallel theme): And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

John 16:6 (Parallel theme): But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.

2 Thessalonians 2:16 (Parallel theme): Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

Isaiah 25:9 (Parallel theme): And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Acts 16:25 (Parallel theme): And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Acts 2:46 (Parallel theme): And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Psalms 146:2 (Parallel theme): While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Hebrews 10:34 (Parallel theme): For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

Hebrews 6:18 (Parallel theme): That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

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