

John 17:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

Analysis

And now come I to thee—Jesus speaks of His imminent return to the Father through crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. The Greek *erchomai pros se* (ἔρχομαι πρὸς σέ) marks the transition from earthly ministry to heavenly glory, yet He prays **these things...in the world** (ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ λαλῶ) precisely so His disciples might hear.

That they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves (ἵνα ἔχωσιν τὴν χαρὰν τὴν ἐμὴν πεπληρωμένην ἐν ἑαυτοῖς)—The purpose clause is stunning: Christ's joy (*charan tēn emēn*), the very joy He possesses in perfect communion with the Father (cf. 15:11, 16:24), is to be fulfilled (*peplērōmenēn*, perfect passive participle—fully completed, brought to maturity) within believers. This joy doesn't depend on circumstances but flows from the believer's union with Christ and knowledge of answered prayer (17:1-5). Jesus prays aloud so His followers would know their security in God's love and mission.

Historical Context

This verse occurs in Jesus's High Priestly Prayer (John 17), offered on the night before His crucifixion (c. AD 30). John's Gospel uniquely preserves this intimate prayer, likely overheard by the disciples in the upper room or en route to Gethsemane. The prayer's theological depth reflects John's mature meditation on Christ's person and work, written decades later (c. AD 90-95).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that Jesus prayed for your joy—even on the night of His betrayal—change your understanding of His priorities?
2. What is the relationship between Christ's joy and your own? How does union with Christ become the source of joy that circumstances cannot steal?

Interlinear Text

νῦν δὲ πρὸς σὲ ἔρχομαι καὶ ταῦτα λαλῶ ἐν τῷ
now And to thee come I and these things I speak in G3588
G3568 G1161 G4314 G4571 G2064 G2532 G5023 G2980 G1722

κόσμῳ ἵνα ἔχωσιν τὴν χαρὰν τὴν ἐμὴν
the world that they might have G3588 joy G3588 my
G2889 G2443 G2192 G5479 G1699

πεπληρωμένην ἐν αὐτοῖς
fulfilled in G846
G4137 G1722

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 12:2 (Parallel theme): Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Galatians 5:22 (Parallel theme): But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

John 15:11 (Parallel theme): These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

John 3:29 (Parallel theme): He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

1 John 1:4 (Parallel theme): And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

John 13:3 (Parallel theme): Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

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