

ENJOYING EVERYTHING GOD GIVES

Part 1: GOD WANTS YOU TO ENJOY HIS SALVATION

1Timothy 6:17 **SLIDE**

... God ... richly gives all things for us to enjoy.

*Years ago, when I was in my 20s, I was walking on the walkway by the ocean towards Bondi Beach in Sydney and talking with Our Father. **SLIDE** This was one of my favourite places to get away and 'pray'.*

This day I was contemplating the issue of being single and serving God without distraction ... as opposed to being married and settling down. Would I still be able to serve God with the same zeal if I were married?

It was at this thought that the Father spoke clear words, deep into my heart.

SLIDE *He said, 'Son, I don't want to take from you ... I want to give to you. Enjoy that which I am giving.'*

Well, my heart leapt for joy at His beautiful word which came with His unique peace and kindness ... and also in realizing God had heard my conversation and had actually answered.

It was God's approval to marry, but now I see it revealed far more.

- *It revealed The Father's most generous nature and His desire to give to us.*

'I don't want to take from you ... I want to give to you.'

*Now I see Him – not as the God of LAW ... demanding our obeisance and obedience ... **But as our warm hearted Father** ... abounding in Goodness and Grace ... and so wanting to GIVE TO US.*

'I don't want to take from you ... I want to give to you.'

1Timothy 6:17 **SLIDE**

... God ... richly gives all things for us to enjoy.

THIS IS WHO GOD IS ...

HE IS A FATHER WHO WANTS TO GIVE TO HIS CHILDREN ...

HE ALWAYS WAS THAT FATHER, EVEN AT CREATION ...

HE GAVE AND GAVE AND GAVE AGAIN.

Matthew 7:11 BSB

So if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

GOD IS A GIVER & GOD LOVES TO GIVE FREELY & WITHOUT PAYMENT

John 3:16

For God so loved ... He GAVE ...

This is so opposite to the religions of the world and their so-called 'gods'.

For instance, the so called 'gods' of the Incas and Aztecs demanded human sacrifices to avert their wrath, gain their favour and so that their crops would not be destroyed.

BUT GOD THE FATHER OF LIFE GIVES UNCONDITIONALLY WITHOUT US HAVING TO EVEN ASK ... LET ALONE SACRIFICE ANYTHING ...

For example –

Matthew 5:45 BSB

... [Your Father] causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

HE is not some uptight ... angry ... indignant deity who demands **our** gifts and sacrifices ...

HE IS THE TRUE GOD WHO GIVES US FREELY HIS GIFTS

His love has no limit; His grace has no measure.

His power no boundary known unto men.

For out of His infinite riches in Jesus ...

He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!

- Annie Johnson Flint

PROBLEM

Many of us, deep down, find it hard to accept the fact that God is a Free-Giving God and has given, and wants to give to us, personally.

HE KNOWS YOU PERSONALLY & WANTS TO GIVE TO YOU PERSONALLY

He said to me, 'Son, I don't want to take from you ... I want to give to you. Enjoy that which I am giving.'

**GOD DELIGHTS IN GIVING & HAS GIVEN SO MUCH TO YOU ...
AND WILL STILL GIVE YOU MORE AND MORE ...**

He opens His hand ... and it is full of blessings.

BUT THERE'S MORE

- **THE SECOND PART OF THE FATHER'S STATEMENT TO ME
TOLD ME SOMETHING EVEN GREATER**

**THE FATHER NOT ONLY TOLD ME HE WANTED TO GIVE TO ME ...
HE TOLD ME HE WANTED ME TO ENJOY ALL THAT HE WAS
GIVING**

SLIDE *He said, 'Son, I don't want to take from you ... I want to give
to you. Enjoy that which I am giving.'*

Look at our Text again –

1Timothy 6:17 **SLIDE**

... God ... richly provides all things for us to enjoy.

'Enjoy' (apolausin) – to experience full enjoyment.

**GOD WANTS YOU TO ENJOY ALL HIS GIFTS & BLESSINGS.
THE FATHER DESIRES TO SEE YOU ENJOYING HIS GIFTS.
HIS HEART TAKES GREAT PLEASURE IN YOUR JOY &
HAPPINESS ... HE WANTS TO SEE HIS KIDS HAPPY.**

**LOOK AT GIVING & ENJOING IN THE STORY OF 'THE PRODIGAL
SON'**

1. SLIDE *The World is Not a Place of Giving*

Luke 15:16 BSB

*He longed to fill his belly with the pods the pigs were eating, but no one
would give him a thing.*

2. SLIDE *The Prodigal Knew His Father Was a Generous Giver*

Luke 15:17 English Standard Version

*But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's
hired servants have more than enough bread ...*

**THE PRODIGAL HAD ASKED THE FATHER TO GIVE HIM HIS
INHERITANCE & THE FATHER HAD GIVEN IT TO HIM.**

THE PRODIGAL KNEW HIS FATHER'S GENEROSITY.

3. **SLIDE** The Father Gave and Gave and Gave

He gave the Embrace of Acceptance (Luke 15:20)

He gave the Kiss of Affection (Luke 15:20)

He gave the Robe of Righteousness (Luke 15:22)

He gave the Ring of Sonship (Luke 15:22)

He gave the House-Shoes unmuddied from the world (Luke 15:22)

BUT IT DIDN'T STOP THERE

He gave a Great Feast ... (Luke 15:23)

4. **SLIDE** The Father Revealed His Final Desire

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THE FATHER'S DESIRE IN THIS STORY ...

AFTER HE HAD GIVEN THE PRODIGAL EVERYTHING?

- HE WANTED THEM TO ENJOY THE FEAST

Luke 15:23-24 NKJV

*... Bring the fatted calf here and kill it and let us eat and **be merry**;*

*²⁴ ... And they began to **be merry**.*

THE FATHER SAYS, 'NOT ONLY DO I WANT YOU TO RECEIVE ALL I HAVE GIVEN YOU ... I WANT YOU TO ENJOY EVERYTHING I HAVE GIVEN YOU.'

THIS FEAST IS BEYOND ANYTHING YOU COULD GET OUT THERE IN THE WORLD ... THE MUSIC SINGS IN YOUR HEART ... THE DANCING IS FLUID ... THE SATISFACTION OVERFLOWING ...

Psalm 16:11 BSB **SLIDE**

*... **You will fill me with joy** in your presence, with **eternal pleasures** at your right hand.*

LOOK AT THE DISTANCE THIS PRODIGAL SON TRAVERSED IN HIMSELF ... FROM THE TIME HE FIRST SAW HIS FATHER AGAIN ON THE ROAD, TO ENJOYING HIS BLESSING AROUND HIS TABLE

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THE PRODIGAL STARTED FEELING UNWORTHY

*'Father, I have sinned against You and **I am not worthy** to be called Your son' (Luke 15:21) ... to now ... rejoicing and feasting in His House.*

THE PRODIGAL FINISHED BY ENJOYING THE FATHER'S PROVISION

OUR PROBLEM IS ...

- *Some of us are still out on The Road ...*
- *Some of us have NOT progressed passed **the hug and the kiss** into the house ...*
We keep seeking more hugs and kisses and assurance
Believers who alway pray for more affection and acceptance
- *Some of us have yet to come to the Feast of the FATTED CALF **to enjoy** all the Father and Jesus have done for us.*
There are Believers who are intense and serious all the time.
Serve The Lord with 'Gladness' not Madness.
- *Some of us still feel too unworthy to come into the house ...*
DON'T LOOK AT YOUR FAILURE ...

SLIDE *WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN MAKES YOU WORTHY*

LOOK AT THE ROBE OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ON YOUR SHOULDERS

LOOK AT THE RING OF SONSHIP ON YOUR FINGER

LOOK AT THE HOUSE-SHOES OF HOLINESS ON YOUR FEET

SAY TO YOURSELF, 'I AM THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST
'GOD HAS PUT THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON IN MY HEART CRYING
ABBA FATHER

'I HAVE A RIGHT TO ENTER THE HOUSE WITH HOUSE-SHOES.'

PETER ALSO FELT UNWORTHY AFTER HE HAD DENIED JESUS.

PETER HAD WARMED HIMSELF BY THE WORLD'S FIRE.

John 18:18 Versions **SLIDE**

Because it was cold, the servants and officers were standing around a charcoal fire they had made to keep warm. And Peter was also standing with them, warming himself.

There Peter began to swear and curse and denied Jesus.

Peter not only denied Jesus ... but his own love for Him ...

Luke 22:62 NKJV **SLIDE**

So Peter went out and wept bitterly

BUT LOOK WHAT JESUS BROUGHT TO HIM

John 21:9 BSB **SLIDE**

When they landed, they saw *a charcoal fire* there with fish on it and some bread.

N.B. JESUS WASN'T PACING UP & DOWN WAITING TO REBUKE PETER FOR HIS DENIAL

JESUS' BROUGHT PETER A NEW 'CHARCOAL FIRE' – A TRULY WARM 'CHARCOAL FIRE' TO REPLACE THE WORLD'S FIRE. PETER HAD FAILED IN FELLOWSHIP AT THE WORLD'S FIRE. PETER WAS NOW RESTORED INTO FELLOWSHIP AT THE LORD'S FIRE.

DON'T WARM YOURSELF AT THE WORLD'S FIRE.

WARM YOURSELF AT THE LORD'S FIRE.

JESUS FIRE IS THE REAL FIRE & RESTORES YOUR FAILURES.

BUT LOOK AT WHAT ELSE IS ON THE LORDS FIRE ...

THE LORD'S RESTORATION IS TO BE ENJOYED

John 21:9 **SLIDE**

When they landed, they saw a charcoal fire there *with fish on it and some bread.*

John 21:12

“Come, have breakfast,” Jesus said to them ...

JESUS NOT ONLY WANTS TO REDEEM YOU FROM YOUR FAILURE & RESTORE YOU WITHOUT GUILT, HE WANTS YOU TO ENJOY WHAT HE HAS GIVEN.

NEXT WEEK –

PART 2 - GOD WANTS YOU TO ENJOY HIS CREATION