

Be Happy While You Wait
(March 3, 2019 by Rev. Anthony Menzel)

The title of the message is “Be Happy While You Wait.”

There will be times when life is hard...

There may be times when we get tempted to be anxious about receiving the manifestation of our prayers...

We have to take that anxiety captive and make our thoughts obey Christ...

Sometimes we may have to ask God in the name of Jesus Christ to change the way we feel...

Scripture 1: 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare *are* not ^[a]carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

When we feel sad, we need to take our refuge in the Holy Trinity...

Scripture 2: Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower;

The righteous run to it and are ^[e]safe.

Scripture 3: James 5:13-18

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be

forgiven. ¹⁶ ^[i]Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, ^[k]fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

We may get sad sometimes, but we cannot let ourselves get stuck in negative feelings...

Scripture 4: Psalm 30:4-5

Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His,
And give thanks at the remembrance of ^[b]His holy name.

⁵ For His anger *is but for* a moment,
His favor *is for* life;
Weeping may endure for a night,
But ^[c]joy *comes* in the morning.

We have to remember that our suffering is not forever...

Moreover, God wants us to have joy in the midst of our tribulations and our waiting...

One of the best ways to have this joy is just to fall in love with the Lord Jesus...

When you are in love with someone, you don't need a lot else to be happy...
You just want to be with the person...

Scripture 5: Song of Solomon 4:10

How fair is your love,
My sister, *my* spouse!
How much better than wine is your love,
And the ^[c]scent of your perfumes
Than all spices!

So should it be with the Lord Jesus...

Just having Him is better than everything and everyone...
Everything else is wonderful, but the blessings we are waiting for should be minor compared to the blessing of simply having Him in our lives...

Scripture 6: Psalm 16:5-11

O LORD, *You are* the portion of my inheritance and my cup;
You ^[b]maintain my lot.
⁶ The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*;
Yes, I have a good inheritance.

⁷ I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel;
My ^[c]heart also instructs me in the night seasons.
⁸ I have set the LORD always before me;
Because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved.
⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will ^[d]rest in hope.
¹⁰ For You will not leave my soul in ^[e]Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to ^[f]see corruption.
¹¹ You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence *is* fullness of joy;
At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

When you get in His Presence, all the roughness of the world melts away...

***Sometimes the Lord Jesus makes us wait for blessings because He wants to see if we are sincerely in love with Him...

Scripture 7: John 6:15,26-27,53-70

Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. ²⁷ Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

⁵³ Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.⁵⁴ Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For My flesh is ^[k]food indeed, and My blood is ^[l]drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.⁵⁸ This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."

⁵⁹ These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

Many Disciples Turn Away

⁶⁰ Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, “This is a [m]hard saying; who can understand it?”

⁶¹ When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples [n]complained about this, He said to them, “Does this [o]offend you? ⁶² *What* then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. ⁶⁵ And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”

⁶⁶ From that *time* many of His disciples went [p]back and walked with Him no more. ⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”

⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ Also we have come to believe and know that You are the [q]Christ, the Son of the living God.”

⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” ⁷¹ He spoke of Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.

Sending hugs and kisses is one of the deepest, most powerful ways to worship the Holy Trinity-God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit...

Scripture 8: Luke 7:36-50

Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. ³⁷ And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, ³⁸ and stood at His feet behind *Him* weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped *them* with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed *them* with the fragrant oil. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw *this*, he spoke to himself, saying, “This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman *this is* who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.”

⁴⁰ And Jesus answered and said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.”

So he said, “Teacher, say it.”

⁴¹ “There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?”

⁴³ Simon answered and said, “I suppose the *one* whom he forgave more.”

And He said to him, “You have rightly judged.” ⁴⁴ Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped *them* with the hair of her head. ⁴⁵ You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. ⁴⁷ Therefore I say to you, her sins, which *are* many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loves little.”

⁴⁸ Then He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

⁴⁹ And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

⁵⁰ Then He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

Scripture 9: Matthew 28:5-10

But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷ And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”

⁸ So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

The Women Worship the Risen Lord

⁹ And bas they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go *and* tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”