**1]** God Is My Portion

There is comfort in knowing that you have everything that you need.

* Finances to pay bills or provide for you and your family’s needs.
* Food to fill your stomach.
* Shelter to live in.
* Knowledge to make the right decisions and hold sound beliefs.
* Training to do your job.

When you don’t have those things in your life…you can feel a number of different uncomfortable emotions:

* Unsafe as far as what the future holds.
* Unsure of how to fulfill your responsibilities.
* Inadequate in terms of how you are fulfilling your role in life.
* Unstable in what you believe.

This can bring about a desperation in our heart. We want to see these needs fulfilled!

With these needs not met in our lives:

* We feel undone.
* We feel incapable.
* We feel unsatisfied.

And because our lives are now being governed by feeling, our faith loses out. We are desperate, we are weary, we are in need.

This desperation brings about action…We’ve got to do something about this!

Where does the Lord fit in to this equation in our lives?

I can’t tell you the answer to that, but I can tell you where He wants to be, and that is right there in the middle of it.

He wants to be right there in the middle of your moment of:

* Desperation
* Inadequacy
* Instability

He wants to be at the very center of it all.

He wants to be at the center of your:

* Hope
* Peace
* Provision
* Joy

*Jesus You’re the Center of My Joy* (Chorus)

Jesus, you're the center of my joy
All that's good and perfect comes from you
You're the heart of my contentment, hope for all I do
Jesus, you're the center of my joy

***2] Psalm 16:11 says: You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.***

He is our direction. He makes our paths straight.

We don’t have to fear because He is with us. He is our guide. Ordering our steps. He makes known to us, His will for our lives.

* Through His Word he lights our path.
* Through prayer He clarifies and clears the way.
* Through His presence He reveals Himself to us.

When we spend time with Him…we get to know Him more and more. Every day, sweeter than the last.

* He reveals His holiness

***3] 1 Samuel 2:2 declares, "There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God."***

* He reveals His righteousness

**4] 2 Corinthians 5:21:**

***For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we  might become the righteousness of God.***

I’ve heard it said that holiness is to do with your character, and righteousness is to do with one’s conduct.

The word says to be holy, as He is holy. And then the righteousness of God might be evident through the lives that we live. That we might be a personal testimony of God’s righteousness. Not by our works, or our own righteousness, but the very nature and character of God being revealed through a life lived for His glory.

* He reveals His truth

***5] Proverbs 30:5: Every word of God proves true. He is a shield to all who come to him for protection.***

We cannot claim to know God, but deny His truth. We cannot claim to be of Him, but deny the validity of His Word.

But day after day, His truth is revealed, and we are a testimony that God is who He says He is. He does what He says He will do. That He is the same, yesterday, today, and forever.

* He reveals His joy.

This happens when we walk with the Lord:

***6] John 15:9-11: As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Remain in My love.******[10](https://biblehub.com/john/15-10.htm)If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love.******[11](https://biblehub.com/john/15-11.htm)I have told you these things so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.***

His joy is made complete, WHEN we remain in Him. We walk with Him. In Him there is fulness of joy. Not *just enough* to get by…but fulness. To the full extent of our capacity.

Do you feel distant from the Lord, this morning? Find joy in Him! There is no limit to His supply, and no source of joy, but what He provides.

We cannot contain any more joy than what He provides, and He is at the very center of it.

Maybe you’ve seen one of those punching bags that sits on the ground. We’re like those punching bags, in more ways than one.

Sometimes you feel like life is throwing the punches, and you’re just taking them…over and over again.

But when you think about those punching bags, there is some weight in the bottom of them. Why? So that every time they get punched, they just pop right back up.

Oh, you may feel punched over and over again. But when the joy of the Lord is at the center of your life. When your foundation is in Him…every time, you’re just going to pop back up. Every time…”I’m still here.”

Every time…”You haven’t knocked me out.” And guess what…the puncher, can only punch for so long. Eventually, the puncher runs out of resources, runs out of strength, runs out of stamina…AND when the puncher is done punching…the weight, the foundation that keeps popping you back up…is still there.

The devil can hit you over and over and over again, but when the joy of the Lord is your strength…you’ll pop back up every time.

I’M STILL HERE!

By the grace of God…I’m still here. You can’t keep me down. I’ve got something down deep inside of me, that you can’t stop.

It’s not about my strength, but it’s that Jesus is the center of my joy. I’m a child of God. I’m on the Lord’s side.

And at His right hand, there are pleasures forever more.

Devil…you can try to control me, try to contain me…but you can’t stop me, because you can’t stop the Spirit of God that lives inside of me!

Truly…what needs do you have? He can supply every last one of them.

***7] Psalm 16:5 says: “LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.”***

He is our portion. He is our inheritance. He is our security. He is our rock.

***8] Psalm 73:26: My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.***

He is all the power that you need to live in this season of your life. Everything else may fail, but His love will endure forever.

***9] Psalm 142:5: I cry to you, O Lord; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.”***

He is our shelter. He is our safety. He stands guard over our lives, when we put our trust in Him.

***10] Lamentations 3:24: “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore***

***I will hope in him.”***

He is our hope. All other things in this life will falter. will cease to exist. But when your hope is in Him,

you have an eternal hope that cannot be knocked down by the arrows of the enemy.