

Good News!

JUST TO BE NEAR

A small boy who was very fond of his father loved to join him wherever he went. One day while his dad was engaged in intensive study, the youngster tapped at his office door. "Well, my little man, what do you want now?"

"Nothing, Daddy, I just want to be near you."

Receiving permission to come in, the boy made his way to a far corner of the room and sat quietly for a long time. He was content just to be alone with his father.

I wonder, is this the kind of love we have toward God? Do we often go to the Savior, even when we don't want anything, just to be near Him? If we abide in close fellowship with Christ, we will be greatly blessed and bear rich and abundant fruit.

THE SECRET OF HIS PEACE

The noted Bible scholar, James M. Gray, told a story that underscores the importance of reading the Scriptures for personal growth. He said that when he was a young Bible teacher he became deeply impressed by the peace and spiritual poise of a friend with whom he often talked. Since Gray wanted that same stability, he asked his companion the secret of his confident bearing and positive outlook.

"It all started through reading Ephesians," said the man.

Gray was surprised by this simple response. He had read Ephesians many times, but had never experienced the same strength he saw in his friend. Noticing Gray's puzzled look, the man explained. "On one occasion, when I was on a short vacation, I took a pocket edition of Ephesians with me. Lying down one afternoon, I read all six chapters. My interest was so aroused that I read the entire epistle again. In fact, I did not finally lay it down until I had gone through it some fifteen times."

He then said, "When I arose to go into the house, I was in possession of Ephesians; or better yet, it was in possession of me. I had the feeling that I had been lifted up to sit together in heavenly places with Christ Jesus—a feeling that was new to me."

This testimony encouraged Gray to master the Scriptures for himself. He began to saturate his mind and heart with God's Word so that he could freely and effectively communicate it to others.

NOT FOR KIDS ONLY

Two gentlemen were traveling on a plane and were seated next to each other. One turned to the other and asked, "What do you do?" The gentleman replied, "I am a minister."

"Oh," said the first man. "I don't believe in this religious stuff It's for kids, you know, 'Jesus love me this I know, for the Bible tells me so'..."

The minister politely laughed and asked the other man what he did for a living.

"I am an astronomer," said the first man.

"Oh, that stuff:' said the minister. "I thought it was just for kids, you know, 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star'..."

THE JOY OF THE LORD

I heard of a pastor who was visiting a hospital when the nurse told him about a patient that had just been transferred from a nursing home because her condition was worsening. The nurse said, "Someone really ought to visit her. She is very deformed and her body has been twisted since childhood. She really needs someone to go by and try to cheer her up."

So the pastor went by to visit her. He always carried around a little booklet that he gave to people to read who were very depressed, because it was such a cheerful and uplifting book. He told the woman, "I have something for you. It's a happy book, an uplifting book, an encouraging book. I want you to read it because I believe it can give you strength"

The woman looked at the book he gave her and responded, "I really ought not take that book, sir."

He replied, "Why not? Have you already read it?"

She said, "I have not only read it, I wrote it!"

Friends, our happiness and joy are not dependant upon our physical condition, but upon the Lord and His grace. -Mike Minnix