

What Saith the Scripture?

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Mandatory Traits of a True Christian

Mandatory Trait 2. Joyful

"As He is, so are we in this world"

(1John 4:17).

"22 The Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith,
23 Meekness, Temperance: against such there is no Law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit"

(Galatians 5:22-25).

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Mandatory Trait 2.

Joyful

"These things have I spoken unto you, that My Joy might remain in you, and that your Joy might be full"

(John 15:11).

Preface

The second "Fruit of the Spirit is Joy" (Galatians 5:22). *True* Christians are happy people! We may not have thought being happy important enough to qualify as a mandatory trait of Christianity-- but, the LORD did! It's the Highest Good He can Will for us. "These things have I spoken unto you, that My Joy might remain in you, and that your Joy might be full" (John 15:11). It is God that makes us happy, for **He is the Source of our Joy**. "Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD" (Psalm 144:15). If we have His Spirit, then we will have Joy. It is the LORD's Purpose in us, that we be full of Joy. "These things write we unto you, that your Joy may be full" (1John 1:4). When we have need, we are to turn to Him. "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in My Name: ask [an Imperative, a Command], and ye shall receive, that your Joy may be full" (John 16:24).

In Scripture, to be blessed by God is to be happy. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom He hath **chosen** for His Own Inheritance" (Psalm 33:12). To gain an inheritance can be quite advantageous, depending on the value of that which is gained. To be the LORD is to be Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent. And yet, God chooses **us** as His valued Inheritance! "8 Let all the Earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast" (Psalm 33:8,9). The more we are like Him, the more valued we are to Him. "Now therefore, if ye will obey My Voice indeed, and keep My Covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people: for all the Earth is Mine" (Exodus 19:5).

- (Deuteronomy 7:6) "For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath **chosen** thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the Earth."
- (Psalm 28:9) "Save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever."

"What saith the Scripture" (Romans 4:3) concerning this mandatory characteristic that all *true* children have from their Heavenly Father?

The Standard-- God is Joyful

The LORD is our Standard, and His Own Spirit is Joyful. "The Fruit of the Spirit is Joy" (Galatians 5:22). It is the fulness of His Spirit that causes us to be happy in every Purpose He has for us. "Thou wilt show me the path of Life: in Thy Presence is Fulness of Joy; at Thy Right Hand there are Pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11). Since Heaven is the Goal Mark in every pilgrim's journey, then, O LORD, "Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Let my sojourning lead me "unto the Altar of God, unto **God my Exceeding Joy**: yea, upon the harp will I praise Thee, O God my God" (Psalm 43:4). The pilgrim path is Spiritual quest, "for the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but Righteousness, and Peace, and Joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17). Our worship should extol the Virtues of our Most Excellent God, and recognize, with thanksgiving, the Example He offers us in our Christian walk. "My lips shall **greatly Rejoice** when I sing unto Thee; and my soul, which Thou hast Redeemed" (Psalm 71:23). He is our Joy! "For Thou hast made [me] most blessed for ever: Thou hast made [me] **exceeding Glad** with Thy Countenance" (21:6).

- (Habbakkuk 3:18) "Yet **I will Rejoice** in the LORD, **I will Joy** in the God of my Salvation."
- (Romans 5:11) "And not only so, but **we also Joy in God through our LORD Jesus Christ**, by Whom we have now received the Atonement [the At-One-ment]."

Our LORD is Joyful. "These things have I spoken unto you, that My Joy might remain in you, and that your Joy might be full" (John 15:11). Our goal is to be Joyful, also, for "as He is, so are we in this world" (1John 4:17).

True Christians Joy in The Standard.

The LORD is our Joy! "These things have I spoken unto you, that My Joy might remain in you, and that your Joy might be full" (John 15:11). His Word is our Joy! "Thy Words were found, and I did eat them; and thy Word was unto me the Joy and Rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy Name, O LORD God of Hosts" (Jeremiah 15:16). He fills our hearts with the Goodness of Himself and reveals to us the secrets of His Character. "His Secret is with the righteous" (Proverbs 3:32). "Happy is the man that findeth Wisdom, and the man that getteth Understanding" (Proverbs 3:13).

For the *true* Christian, Jesus Christ is the Most Perfect Example of Selfless Joy. "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" (Hebrews 12:2). What was

the Joy that was "set before Him"? He was given the Job of Saving us, for no one else could do it. "We see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of Death, crowned with Glory and Honour; that He by the Grace of God should taste Death for every man" (2:9). **It was His extreme Joy over us, in bringing us into the Kingdom, in bringing us to His Father, that took Him to the Cross.** "He will Save, **He will Rejoice over thee with Joy**; He [Jesus] will rest in His [The Father's] Love, **He will Joy over thee with singing**" (Zephaniah 3:17). What a Saviour!

- (Philippians 2:9) "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name."
- (Hebrews 2:10) "For it became Him, for Whom are all things, and by Whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto Glory, to make the Captain of their Salvation Perfect through sufferings."
- (Matthew 16:24) "Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."
- (Hebrews 1:3) "Who being the Brightness of His Glory, and the Express Image of His Person, and upholding all things by the Word of His Power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on High."

What a thought, that the LORD of Glory would Rejoice over us! That we should Rejoice over Him is abundantly clear and reasonable.

- (Habbakkuk 3:18) "Yet I will Rejoice in the LORD, I will Joy in the God of my Salvation."
- (Psalm 32:11) "Be Glad in the LORD, and Rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for Joy, all ye that are upright in heart."
- (Psalm 33:1) "Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for Praise is comely for the upright."
- (Philippians 4:4) "Rejoice in the LORD **alway**: and again I say, Rejoice."
- (Psalm 34:1-2) "1 I will bless the LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be Glad."
- (Psalm 146:2) "While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being."

(1.) A true Christian is a Joyful Blessing Also to Family and Friends.

The Standard of His Word can only lead us Truthfully. "4 For the Word of the LORD is Right; and all His Works are done in Truth. 5 He loveth Righteousness and Judgment: the Earth is full of the Goodness of the LORD" (Psalm 33:4-5). The Apostle John said of his spiritual children in the LORD, "I have no greater Joy than to hear that my children walk in Truth (3John 1:4). Since our Divine Standard is Joy Himself, therefore, "fulfil ye my Joy,

that ye be likeminded [in Truth], having the same Love, being of one accord, of one mind" (Philippians 2:2). And, if one in Christ by His Joy, then should we also be one in Christ's Joy with our family and friends.

- (2John 1:12) "I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our Joy may be full."
- (Luke 15:7,10) "7 I say unto you, that likewise Joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance... 10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is Joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."
- (2Corinthians 2:3) "Having confidence in you all, that my Joy is the Joy of you all."
- (Philippians 1:4) "Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with Joy."
- (Philippians 1:25) "And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and Joy of Faith."
- (Philippians 2:17) "Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your Faith, I Joy, and Rejoice with you all."
- (Luke 2:10-11) "10 I bring you Good Tidings of **Great Joy, which shall be to all people**. 11 For **unto you is born** this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the LORD."

So, it's only reasonable to conclude, that actions done in Truth before God, which cause Him to Joy over us, will bring only Happiness to those we know and love. "For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the Joy wherewith we Joy for your sakes before our God" (1Thessalonians 3:9). Sharing the Joy of Christ reaps great rewards, even while here on this Earth. "That I may come unto you with Joy by the Will of God, and may with you be refreshed" (Romans 15:32).

- (Romans 15:13) "Now the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and Peace in believing."
- (John 16:22) "I will see you again, and your heart shall Rejoice, and your Joy no man taketh from you."

(2.) A true Christian Obeys the Command to "Rejoice Evermore."

To obey the LORD in all things, even in the face of adversity, is the mark of a *true* Christian, for the Command is: "Rejoice evermore" (1Thessalonians 5:16).

- (1Peter. 4:13) "But Rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His Glory shall be revealed, ye may be Glad also with exceeding Joy."
- (Matthew 5:12) "Rejoice, and be exceeding Glad: for great is your reward in Heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

- (Romans 12:12) "Rejoicing in Hope; Patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer."
- (James 1:2) "My brethren, count it **all Joy** when ye fall into divers temptations."
- (Philippians 4:4) "Rejoice in the LORD alway: and again I say, Rejoice."
- (2Corinthians 6:10) "As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

True Christians Rejoice in the Promise of Christ's Return.

It is the *true* Christians who love the LORD's Second Coming, and only they will be the ones ready for His Return. "6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the Bridegroom [the LORD Jesus Christ] cometh; go ye out to meet Him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil [symbolic of the Holy Spirit]; for our lamps are gone out [backslidden-- they obeyed not the LORD, and had grieved away the Holy Spirit of God, i.e., "the Holy Ghost, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him" (Acts 5:32)]. 9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to buy, the Bridegroom came; and **they that were ready went in with Him to the Marriage: and the door was shut.** 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, LORD, LORD, open to us. 12 But He answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. [also: "I know you not... depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity" (Luke 13:27).] 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh" (Matthew 25:6-13).

- (Hebrews 9:28) "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that **look for Him** shall He appear the Second Time without sin unto Salvation."
- (2Timothy 4:8) "Henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the LORD, The Righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that **love His Appearing.**"
- (Titus 2:13) "Looking for that Blessed Hope, and the Glorious Appearing of the Great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."
- (1Peter 5:4) "And when the Chief Shepherd shall Appear, ye shall receive a Crown of Glory that fadeth not away."
- (Romans 8:23) "Ourselves also, which have the Firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the Adoption, to wit, the Redemption of our body."
- (2Corinthians 5:2) "For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our House which is from Heaven."
- (1Corinthians 2:9) "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into

the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that LOVE Him."

- (1Thessalonians 1:10) "To wait for His Son from Heaven, Whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."
- (1Thessalonians 5:4) "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."
- (John 3:29) "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."
- (Revelation 19:7-9) "7 Let us be Glad and Rejoice, and give Honour to Him: for the Marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the Righteousness of saints. 9 ...Blessed are they which are called unto the Marriage Supper of the Lamb."
- (Revelation 22:20) "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I Come Quickly. Amen. **Even so, Come, Lord Jesus.**"

True Christians, when operating in God's Joy, refuse to sin.

It is not morally possible to be Joyful and sinful at the same time. "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Luke 16:13).

- (Luke 9:50; 11:23; 14:26) "9:50 And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not: for he that is not against us is for us... 11:23 He that is not with Me is against Me: and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth... 14:26 If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple."
- (Romans 6:16-18) "16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto Righteousness? 17 But God be thanked, that ye **were** the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of Doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of Righteousness."
- (Romans 8:5-6) "5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be Spiritually minded is Life and Peace."
- (1John 3:9) "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for His Seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

The LORD draws a Line in the sand, and says there is a difference between doing right and wrong. So must we.

- (Psalm 37:31) "The Law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide."
- (1John 2:15) "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the Love of the Father is not in him."
- (James 4:4) "Friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

But, if we do sin, we **must** repent, or else we prove that we are none of His children. "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" (Romans 8:9).

- (Acts 5:32) "The Holy Ghost, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him."
- (1John 4:13) "Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, because He hath given us of His Spirit."

When we recognize that God punishes us for our sin, then we have proof that we have a Father, and that we're not bastard children. In this, we should Rejoice.

- (Job 5:17) "Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty."
- (Proverbs 28:14) "Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief."
- (Luke 15:10) "Likewise, I say unto you, there is Joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."
- (Romans 5:11) "We also Joy in God through our LORD Jesus Christ, by Whom we have now received the Atonement [i.e., the Atonement is to be one with the LORD (At-One-Ment)]".

Mandatory Trait 3. Peaceful / coming soon