

I am a born again Christ Follower. How come there is no joy out there in the body of Christ?

Christians are salt and light in the world (Mt 5:13-16).

Joy is the result of an indwelling presence of Christ in one's life. Someone said, "Joy is the flag that is flown in the heart when the master is in residence." Christian joy may not be immediately recognizable by the world (Eph 4:18).¹

Jesus had joy (Jas 1:17); yet, the Pharisees accused him of getting his power from Satan, the prince of demons (Mt 12:22–24).

The world's joy is foolish (Pr 15:21) and temporary (Mt 13:20); but, Christian joy is inexpressible (1 Pe 1:8) and everlasting (Is 51:11).

In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus taught that Christians will have joy in the future.

He said:

His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'
Mt 25:20–23

Joy is not only a present reality; it is also a future hope.

Joy is rare in the world today because Christians are rare in the world today—few find the way to life (Mt 7:14).

Believers point to Jesus because he is the path to true joy (Jn 14:6, 1 Pe 1:8). Sadly, many chose instead to trust in their own way. In Proverbs we read: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. (Pr 14:12)."

Christians who share their faith are persecuted (Ga 4:29).

Christ's Beatitudes began with, "Blessed are the poor in spirit (Mt 5:3),...Blessed are they that mourn (v. 4),...Blessed are the meek (v. 5)."

Persecuted believers who are: poor in spirit, mournful and meek do not at first glance appear to be the possessors of joy; but, in reality they hold treasures (Pr 2:4) from their spiritual discoveries (Mt 13:44) which fill them with joy.

¹ Paul describes the unsaved as having: confused thoughts (4:17), hardened hearts (4:18b), closed minds (4:18a), impure and greedy thoughts (4:19) Willmington, H. L. (1999). The Outline Bible (Eph 4:17–19). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.