

into tribulations, into difficulties. Count it all joy. The Christian who has the fruit of the Spirit is not filled with misery even over the terrible conditions of the world. He sorrows when he has conditions he must face. We all must. But even in the midst of them, he has joy. It is one of the fruits of the Spirit which the Christian is supposed to develop and I believe God has so made the world that if we have the true joy in our hearts, about half the ills that affect people will pass us by. Because the emotions that are so common to mankind create perhaps 2/3 of the illnesses that people suffer.

A doctor told me once that he believed that 9/10th of human illness was psychosomatic. I think that is exaggerated. But I think it's safe to say 2/3rds. It is interesting that this is one of the fruits of the Spirit. In Lk. 10 we find when the 70 returned with joy to Christ, they said even the demons submit to us in your name. Jesus replied, I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I've given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven! The greatest cause of joy is our salvation through Jesus Christ. That should be a sufficient cause of joy that what ever happens we are enabled to have the joy in our hearts God wants us to have.

I believe the Christian minister has as part of his purpose not only being filled with the fruit of the Spirit of love, and of peace, but also of joy. I believe this is part of God's purpose and I think it is good for us to get a proper perspective that if the spirits submit to us, if we see great effectiveness from our preaching, naturally we'll be very joyful. But if we are in a situation where everything seems to be going wrong, where we are disappointed, still he wants us to remember that the fact our names are written in heaven is far more important than what we succeed in accomplishing or what happens through us.

The one who truly has the joy of Christ in his heart it will show forth in his life. It will show forth in his preaching. As we deal with people I think a great deal of so-called counselling is unnecessary if we can get across to people the central idea, that if they truly believe in Christ, that if their names are written in heaven, all these other things are so comparatively unimportant that they can still rejoice in the midst of it all because their names are written in heaven. I'm sure you will find that among the hostages, those who had a real faith in Christ, those who rejoiced in Him, will have come through this ordeal in much better shape than those who were constantly worrying about what was going to happen to them, and whether they would ever get out of there because God wants us to realize that he controls all things. Nothing comes into our lives but that it is part of His purpose for us. He wants us to realize that, to preach it and give it, an idea of it across to others.

Preaching, we believe, at Biblical is very important. We hold this seminar each year in order to be of help, to ministers who would like to improve in their preaching.