

**Sometimes the moments that seem
most confusing or painful in the present
are actually preparing us for a joy we cannot yet see.**

16 “In a little while, you will no longer see me; again in a little while, you will see me.”

17 Then some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this he’s telling us: ‘In a little while, you will not see me; again in a little while, you will see me,’ and, ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” 18 They said, “What is this he is saying, ‘In a little while’? We don’t know what he’s talking about.”

19 Jesus knew they wanted to ask him, and so he said to them, “Are you asking one another about what I said, ‘In a little while, you will not see me; again in a little while, you will see me’? 20 Truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. 21 When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her time has come. But when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the suffering because of the joy that a person has been born into the world.

22 So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy from you.

23 “In that day you will not ask me anything. Truly I tell you, anything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. 24 Until now you have asked for nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

25 “I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. A time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 On that day you will ask in my name, and I am not telling you that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

29 His disciples said, “Look, now you’re speaking plainly and not using any figurative language. 30 Now we know that you know everything and don’t need anyone to question you. By this we believe that you came from God.”

31 Jesus responded to them, “Do you now believe? 32 Indeed, an hour is coming, and has come, when each of you will be scattered to his own home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. 33 I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

JOHN 16:31-33

LITURGICAL RESPONSE

READER: This is the Word of the LORD.

EVERYONE: Thanks be to God. Speak, LORD. Your servants are listening.
In Jesus' Name we pray, AMEN.

READER: You may now be seated.

THE JOY OF JESUS...

...is Revealed in the Midst of Sorrow

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JOHN 16:20-21 (CSB)

“SPIRITUAL SURGERY”

Where the presence of pain does not mean the absence of God.

Often it means the opposite. Perhaps God is...

...Healing something.

...Strengthening something.

...Deepening something in us.

[And just like Jesus told the disciples]

What feels like sorrow in the moment may eventually become the very place where God produces the deepest joy in our lives.

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Where in your life does it seem like you're still in the “labor pains”?

Where does it appear like the “surgery” is still happening?

THE JOY OF JESUS...

...is *Revealed* in the Midst of Sorrow

...is *Resistant* to Attack

22 “So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy from you.”

JOHN 16:22 (CSB)

**When our joy is rooted in Him,
we don't panic when culture shifts.
We remain steady as we abide in Him.**

THE JOY OF JESUS...

...is *Revealed* in the Midst of Sorrow

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...is *Refreshed* through Answered Prayer

22 So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy from you.

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“...ask the Father in my name...”

To prayerfully ask “*in Jesus’ name*” means:

to ask in alignment with His character, His will, and His mission.

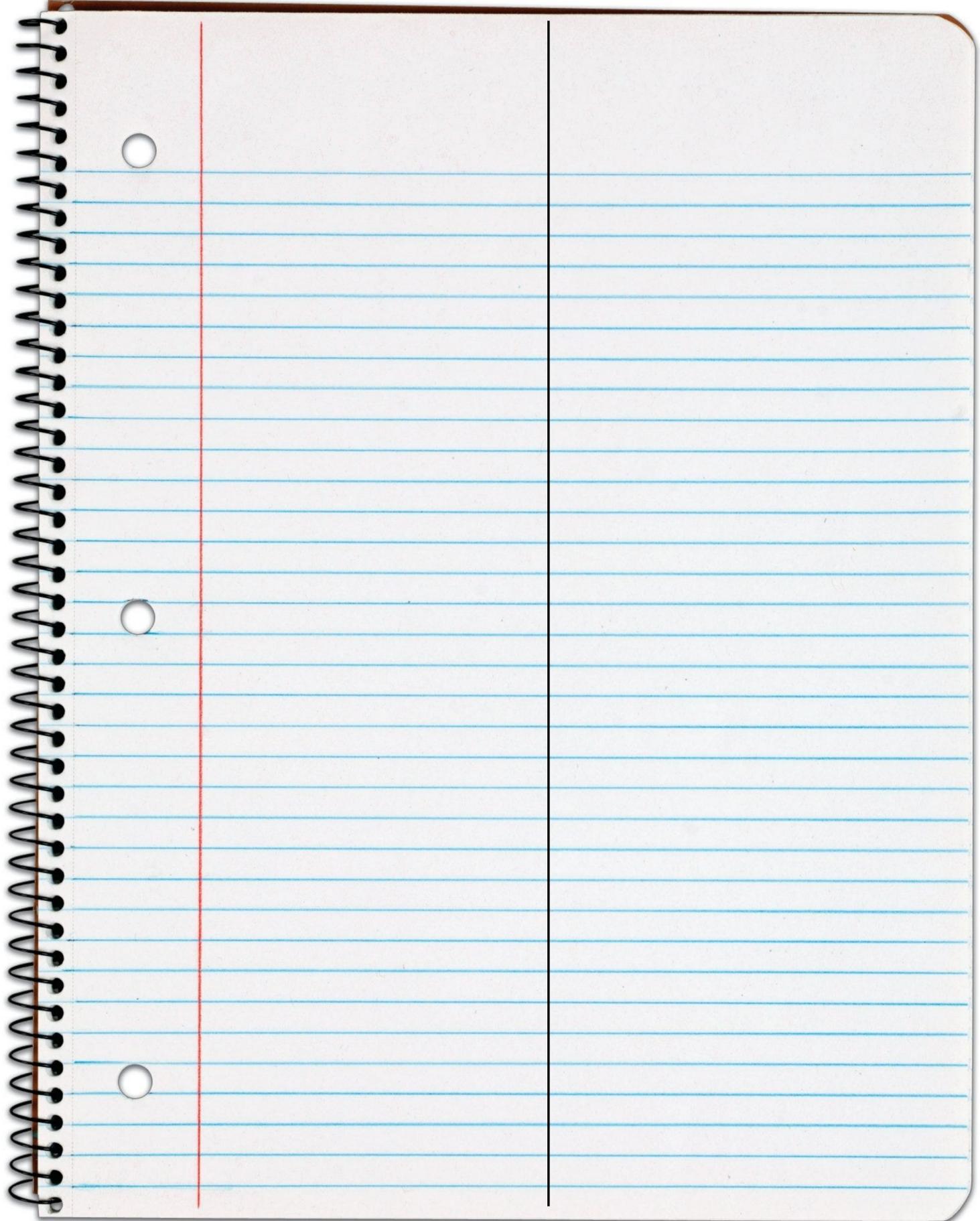
It means we’re asking for the kinds of things Jesus Himself desires.

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Prayer is about aligning our hearts with God’s kingdom purposes.



**MY
COMFORT**

**MY
COMFORT**

**HIS
KINGDOM**

**MY
COMFORT**

**HIS
KINGDOM**

IN HIS NAME?

*“If God answered this
prayer...
would it primarily
increase my comfort?
Or would it advance His
kingdom?”*

Prayer is where **abiding** happens.

Prayer is where **relationship** continues.

Prayer is where **joy is renewed** again and again.

HOWEVER, the opposite is also true.

A lack of PRAYER eventually produces a **lack of POWER...**
and over time, it produces a **lack of LOVE.**

Because

**Prayer is a place where our hearts remain connected to
Christ/Christ's Power/Christ's Love.**

THE JOY OF JESUS...

...is *Revealed* in the Midst of Sorrow

...is *Resistant* to Attack

...is *Refreshed* through Answered Prayer

...is *Rooted in* Reconciliation with the Father

25 “I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. A time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. 26 On that day you will ask in my name, and I am not telling you that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”...

31 Jesus responded to them, “Do you now believe? 32 Indeed, an hour is coming, and has come, when each of you will be scattered to his own home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. 33 I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace.

**The Peace with God is
one of the deepest sources of lasting joy.**

**“In this world you will have trouble.
But take heart; I have overcome the world.”**

JOHN 16:33 (NIV)

Through Jesus
we now have **PEACE** with the Father.

And *because* we have peace with God,
we can face the troubles of this world
with a **JOY** the world **CANNOT TAKE AWAY...**

**Because the One who reconciled us to God
has already OVERCOME the world.**

INVITATION #1

Bring Your Sorrow to the One Who Turns It Into Joy

“You will grieve... but your grief will turn to joy.”

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INVITATION #2

Anchor Your Joy Where It Cannot Be Taken

“No one will take your joy from you.”

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INVITATION #2

Anchor Your Joy Where It Cannot Be Taken

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QUESTION: *Where is my joy anchored?*

When difficulty hits, we might THINK:

“God has abandoned me.”

That’s what fear tells us.

“My circumstances determine my future.”

That’s what the world believes.

“Jesus has already overcome the world.”

That’s what the Gospel declares.

The difference between despair and joy is **NOT** the absence of suffering.

It’s which interpretation you choose to believe.

IN PRAYER, ASK HIM:

What would it look like for me to
anchor my joy more deeply in You, Jesus?