



THE JOY OF FRIENDS

## DEDICATED

**This book is dedicated to my wife, though, the least, yet am I content to dwell with her, that our bowels may bring forth the fruit of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**



**This is the foundation of true friends who in spite of the least situations are godly and contented who demonstrate Grace and the efficacy of His Power to transform. They have no inhibitions and experience liberty and freedom.**

# THE JOY OF FRIENDS PHILEMON 1

## PROLOGUE

.....My strength is made perfect in weakness.

Give me joy in my heart keep me praising,

Give me joy in my heart I pray,

Give me joy in my heart keep me praising,

Keep me praising till the break of day,

Sing hosanna, Sing hosanna, Sing hosanna to the King of Kings!

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,  
Phillipians 4: 13.

May the joy of the Lord be your strength!

It is I who leap for joy when I understood this letter to me, a  
friend of God. I hope this will be your experience too.

# THE JOY OF FRIENDS

## PHILEMON 1

### INTRODUCTION:

In His Presence is fullness of joy and to His Right hand are pleasures evermore, **Psalms 16: 11**. The House of God, the Church, is the House of Friends. Friendship is the means by which God endears himself to his people, and they, to him. A man that will have friends must show himself friendly and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother, **Proverbs 18: 24**. And that friend is Jesus. By His Grace God shows that he is a friend.

Iron sharpens iron so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend, **Proverbs 27: 17**. The atmosphere of the Church is that of Friends, here is the very Presence of God. Greater love have no man than that a man lay down His life for His friends. Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knows not what his Lord does: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you, **John 15: 13-15**.

The Epistle to Philemon employs personification to impart the teachings of the virtues of pure religion. Each character personifies the **Christian virtues** that beautify the relationship of friends. Philemon means: friendly, one who is fond of or affectionate to others.

Paul, the aged, matured in love, the godly and contented, seeks to impart the fruit of his own bowels, joy (Onesimus) to his friend (Philemon). He encourages his friend to receive joy as he would receive contentment; he is especially confident that he would be given unto them by their prayer of faith and asked his friends to prepare lodgings for him: only by supplication are we able to receive the virtue of contentment in spite of our situations that we experience joy and are at peace with God and each other. Joy is a natural fruit of the friendly but in this state it tends to be selfish: this is Onesimus in his former role as Philemon's servant. But now in the Lord we experience its fullness or perfect joy, that's Onesimus converted.

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**LEAST & THE GREATEST:** (Godly and contented)

**V1 Paul** (least or little), a prisoner of Jesus (He will save his people) **Christ**, and **Timothy** (dear to God) **our brother**, unto **Philemon** (friendly) **our dearly beloved**, and fellow laborer,

Godliness with contentment is great gain, **1 Timothy 6: 6**. This, Paul who is least or little embodies or personifies, therefore, He the Least was with Timothy, who is dear to God, having the greatest value or the Greatest. Thus you have the Least and the Greatest: Paul and Timothy.

If in the least situations we are contented as Paul was as a prisoner of Christ, we will find that we have great gain, and will be joyous that we accomplish much. The message of the epistle of their lives, these two brothers, is addressed to a fellow labourer, Philemon, who personifies one who is friendly. This message is the key to prolonging functional relationships. Though Paul was the Least of the Apostles as formerly he persecuted the Church, yet when he was imprisoned for the gospel being in the least of situations he accomplished much even while yet in bonds. The Pauline epistles were thus born out of these circumstances that his reach not only was for his time but beyond his life even to 2 millenniums and unto eternity. Thus the Church is nourished and fed even today.

Therefore little becomes much when God is in it. And God strength is made perfect in weakness, **2 Corinthians 12: 9**. Welcome to the House of functional relationships or Friends.

**BOLDNESS:**

**V8 Wherefore**, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,

Having therefore food and raiment, if we be contented, **1 Timothy 6: 8**, we will find that we are imbued with such power that we have much boldness and courage to speak to any one in those things that are convenient even as the disciples were filled with the **Holy Ghost** and spake the word of God with boldness, **Acts 4: 31**.

# THE JOY OF FRIENDS

## PHILEMON 1

### JOY:

**V15 For perhaps he (JOY) therefore, departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him forever;**

Onesimus departed from Philemon, he personifies joy, but this was just for a season for he would receive him forever thereafter. This speaks to the process accomplished by repentance which climaxes in the **new birth**.

Chastening yields further defiance or repentance. And no chastening for the present seems joyous but rather grievous; but afterwards it yields the peaceable fruits of righteousness to them that are thereby exercised, **Hebrews 12: 11**. And the kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, **Romans 14: 17**. The joy of salvation, the return of Onesimus, is not only for time but eternity; that is forever. It begins now in the least of situations and continues throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. In heaven there is joy over one sinner that repents than over ninety and nine just persons who have no need for repentance, **Luke 15: 17**.

### (PRAYER OF) FAITH:

**V22 But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.**

The House of the Friendly if it exercises faith in praying will most certainly receive the virtuous gift of contentment. Paul was certain that he would be given to the Church of Colossae through their ardent and faithful prayers. Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have them, **Mark 11: 24**.

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### WOMAN & RIDER:

**V2** And to our beloved Apphia (a woman of Colossae), and Archippus (horse ruler) our fellow soldier, and to the church in thy house:

**V8** Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,

The other individual addressees are identified which summarily is the Church. Now the female and the male genders are specified: the Church is the body of Christ of which He is the Head, **Ephesians 5: 23**. Thus the Woman of Colossae, Apphia, is His body, His Bride, and the Horse Ruler or Rider, Archippus symbolizes Christ who leads the armies of Heaven, riding upon a white horse, **Revelations 19: 11 & 14**.

We are a Spiritual House build upon the foundation of Prophets, **Ephesians 2: 20**. Notice also reference is made to the militancy of the Leader of the Church, a fellow soldier, and also the boldness which its members and fellow co-leaders share and yet these are of the House of Friends, that is to say they were a part of the Church in Philemon's House.

**V9** Yet for love's sake, I rather beseech thee, being such a one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

Though the Church is militant and bold as it is filled with the Spirit, it also through this gift possesses the fruit of the Spirit which is love. This fruit is borne by one such as mature, being godly and contented as Paul. All those who understand the epistle of Paul's life will likewise mature to be godly and contented bearing the fruit of love. They rather than compel beseech others to yield to reason and truth.

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### THE GIFT OF THE SPIRIT:

**V2 And to our beloved Apphia (a woman of Colossae), and Archippus (horse ruler) our fellow soldier, and to the church in thy house:**

We have been baptized into one body, and have been made to drink into one Spirit, **1 Corinthians 12: 13**. If any man has not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His, **Romans 8: 9**. I will not leave you comfortless; Jesus said, I will come again unto you, **John 14: 18**. **He shall be in you and shall be among you, John 14: 17**. Thus there is no difference between male and female....., all are one in Christ, **Galations 3: 28**. Thus the Gift of the Spirit unifies the Church to be the Body of Christ. These signs shall follow them that believe on me, in my name shall they heal, and cast out demons, they shall speak with new tongues....**Mark 16: 17-18**. The Gift of the Spirit imparts Spiritual Gifts.

**V9 Yet for love's sake, I rather beseech thee, being such a one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.**

Most importantly it bears the fruit of love: but his delight is in the law of God and in it he meditates day and night, he shall be like a tree that is planted by the rivers of water that shall bring forth his fruit in his season, **Psalms 1: 3**. Such a one as Paul the aged; is 'a mature godly and contented' Christian who bears the fruit of love, which beseeches rather than forces. The fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, goodness, gentle, meekness, faith, temperance, **Galations 5: 22**, is considered superior to, Spiritual Gifts, **1 Corinthians 13: 1-5**. As without the fruit of the Spirit, we are considered as nothing and without profit.

**V16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, especially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh and in the Lord?**

Therefore, we receive each other as brethren, in love, and esteem each other above or more than ourselves, **Romans 12: 10**. Yet the greatest or he that is chief among us shall be a servant, **Mathew 20: 27**. So a servant is received as a brother beloved.



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**V23** There salute thee Epaphras (devoted to), my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus;

We also devote ourselves to one another in the least of our situations and serve one another in these trying circumstances. So those who are godly and contented serve each other in love.

**GRACE, PEACE AND JOY:**

**V3** Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**V15** For perhaps he (JOY) therefore, departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him forever;

For the Law came by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus, **John 1: 17**. This is the only begotten of the Father sent by Him to us for our salvation; he is Jesus: for he shall save his people, **John 1: 14**. To those who received him; to them, gave he power to become sons and daughters of God, even to them that believe on his Name, **John 1: 12**.

Thus the House of Friends believes on Jesus. Thus God's grace is experienced when we accept his love in the offering of His son Jesus Christ: for God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life, **John 3: 16**. While we were yet sinners Christ died for the ungodly, for scarcely for a righteous man one will die, but while we were yet sinners Christ died for us, **Romans 5: 8-9**.

The Father and Jesus Christ personify grace. Grace is not just a concept: being the unmerited favour, but has efficacy and it's the work of God upon the heart that results in obedience. For the love of God constrains us, **2 Corinthians 5: 14**. Those who receive his grace experience also His peace: for He keeps them in perfect peace those whose minds are stayed on Him, **Isaiah 26: 13**. For great peace have them that love thy Law; and nothing shall offend them, **Psalms 119: 165**.

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The focus remains constantly upon him only if we are contented. The assurance of our salvation and confidence in the truth anchors our soul to be steadfast in godliness. For we know all things work together for good to those who love the Lord, who are called according to his purpose, **Romans 8: 28.**

Thus we know God is fulfilling his purposes and will for our lives in our experiences, therefore, tribulations or trials, the least of our situations, works patience and patience experience and experience hope. And hope makes us not ashamed for the love of God is shed forth in our hearts by the Holy Ghost, **Romans 5: 3-4.** Thus this is our joy: that God is with us in the least of our situations, that we are at peace with all; experiencing the grace of eternal life.

**V10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus** (profitable: to desire pleasure or advantage from, to have JOY), **whom I have begotten in my bonds:**

**V16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, especially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh and in the Lord?**

Joy, therefore, comes forth, in the experience of those who are godly and contented, being at peace, having been transformed by Grace. This is Onesimus, Paul's son, whom he begot in the least situations of his bonds. The Joy of our salvation is not to be used to serve self but is to be treasured above all, being an integral part of the brotherhood. The joy of the world is to gratify self, but the joy of the Lord is our strength. For he hath appointed to give beauty for ashes; **the oil of joy** for mourning, the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be the trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, **Isaiah 61: 3.**

**V17 If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.**

Thus the component parts and partners in the relationship of the born again are these: the least and yet the greatest, Paul and Timothy, godly and contented, having much boldness and devotion, Ephaphras, being filled with the Spirit, matured, and bears the fruit of love, **joy** or Onesimus, brethren of Philemon, friendly, by the faith of their prayers they are enjoined together and have

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common fellowship with one another, among them is the Woman of Colossae, Apphia, beloved and the Horse Ruler or Rider, Archippus, a soldier. This is the Church in the House of Friends, comprising both genders, male and female. The virtues of the relationship were wrought by **Grace**, God, the Father and Jesus, and all experience God's **peace**.

### THE VIRTUES OF THE FRIENDSHIP:

**V3 Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

The friendship begins first with Grace, for while we were enemies of God He reconciled us unto himself by the death of His Son, Jesus Christ, that being reconciled we shall be saved by His life, **Romans 5: 10**. Therefore being justified by faith we are at peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Romans 5: 1**.

**V10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus** (profitable: to desire pleasure or advantage from, to have JOY), **whom I have begotten in my bonds:**

The builder of the family name of the godly is joy. Joy is praise expressed! Praise comes from a heart of gratitude; gratitude comes from a broken spirit and a contrite heart. Gratitude is the only positive response to the love and faithfulness of God, that's His grace! Out of the mouth of babes and suckling has Thou ordained praise (strength) because of thy enemies, that Thou might still the avenger, **Psalms 8: 2**. The Joy of the Lord is our strength, **Nehemiah 8: 10**. Even in bonds and trials joy is borne, for the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Gift of the Holy Ghost, **Romans 5: 5**.

**V17 If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.**

The virtues that are partners that constitute this relationship are these: Grace, Peace, Joy, Godliness and contentment, and friendliness.

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**V24 Marcus** (dedicated to Mars, the fifth planet), **Aristarchus** (best ruling, God's judgement), **Demas** (probably Demetrius: follower of Demeter, goddess of corn and harvest) , **Luke** (light, white), **my fellow laborers**.

Likewise these are also partners of the relationship, steeped in the virtue of faith, as faith cometh by hearing and hearing the word of God: **Marcus**, dedicated to honour his Father and Mother, the fifth Commandment of the Mara-too-reon: the commandments of the Lord are pure enlightening the eyes; **Aristarchus**, the best ruling, God's Judgement: the judgement of the Lord are true and altogether righteous; **Demas**, the follower of the goddess of corn and harvest: my sheep hear my voice and they follow, viz.: the audible echoes or tones of God's Words, like Ruth, they follow the Lord's maiden in the former and latter harvest of His crops; **Luke**, light: they words are a lamp unto my feet and light unto my part. These are also fellow laborers and partners of the godly.

### GRATITUDE & FAITH:

**V4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,**

**V22 But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.**

Gratitude is not only expressed in praise but continually in thanksgiving in our prayers. There is also the praise of thanksgiving which is an act of faith. I give thee thanks always my God for thou art good and we do know that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord. The ultimate personification by Paul is of this not only to pray without ceasing but in every thing to be thankful. The House of Friends through their prayers (faith) will be so imbued with this gift that in preparing lodgings in their heart will receive the gift of godliness, contentment, joy, gratitude and thankfulness even as they prepare lodgings to receive Paul. The mature or aged Paul is confident that this will be realized through their prayers.

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When this occurs the Church will be dwelling in the very presence of God, for in His Presence is fullness of joy and to His right hand are pleasures evermore, **Psalms 16: 11.**

**V 11 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:**

**V23 There salute thee Epaphras (devoted to), my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus;**

Of What profit is the Fruit of the Spirit, joy? A merry heart does good as fine medicine, **Proverbs 17: 22**, but a broken spirit dries the bone. This profit, pleasure and joy belongs to the godly and the friendly. We are reminded that with the godly is the devoted: his devotion never ceases even in bonds. What can separate us from the love of God?.....I am persuaded that neither height nor dept, nor anything present nor to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, but in these things we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Romans 8: 39.**

**V18 If he hath wronged thee, or owes thee aught, put that on mine account,**

**V24 Mark (dedicated to Mars (the 5th planet), Aristarchus (best ruling, God's judgement), Demas (probably Demetruis: followere of Demeter, the goddess of corn and harvest , Luke (light, white), my fellow laborers.**

As Paul begot Onesimus even so he begot Philemon by the ministry of the grace and manifold mercies of the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. We are reminded that our prayers for and our forgiveness hinges on our forgiveness of others: 'Father forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,' **Matthew 6: 12.** So are children of the kingdom borne by the transference of their sins to the account of the Father in Heaven who atones for them by the offering of His Son Jesus Christ. We are reminded again to honour our Father and Mother, to keep God's judgements, to follow the maidens of the Lord's Harvest and the Light of God's word in the personification of these Paul's fellow laborers. Whose greetings are a reminder of our responsibilities and obligations as sons and daughters of God. So the just walks or lives by faith, **Habbakuk 2: 4.**

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And the path of the righteous is like a shining light which shines more and more unto the perfect day, **Proverbs 4: 18**.

### BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH:

**V4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,**

The ministry is of grace even as a man is saved by grace through faith, **Ephesians 2: 8**. Even so are we to offer up our prayers not only for the brethren but for all men, **1 Timothy 2: 1**. We are to pray without ceasing and in every thing give thanks, **1 Timothy 5: 17-18**, as godliness with contentment is great gain. This is the role that Paul wrote in his life. Appealing to His Grace for and in behalf of the life of others is only wrought by the prayer of faith. For without faith it is impossible to please God, for those who come to him must believe that he is and that he reward those who diligently seek him.

**V 11 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:**

The efficacy of our prayers (of faith) is experienced when we experience the joy and pleasure of the Lord which is akin to our salvation: for he have appointed beauty for ashes the oil of joy for mourning the garments of praise for the spirit of heaviness, **Isaiah 61: 3**. So we know we are forgiven of the Lord and our prayers are heard when we experience His peace and joy that we worship Him freely and with praise and adoration.

**V18 If he hath wronged thee, or owes thee aught, put that on mine account,**

We freely as godly and friendly members forgive one another even as we have been forgiven of our Heavenly Father. This is an act of faith that we forgive in spite of the wrong that was done to us. In fact, if we do not forgive one another then we will have no benefit nor profit and will not experience the joy or pleasure of the Lord.

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**V25 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.**

This is only made possible by faith: that Christ Jesus might dwell in your hearts by faith, that you be rooted and grounded in love, **Ephesians 3: 17**. Then we will continually experience the grace of Jesus Christ in our lives.

### UNITY:

**V5 Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;**

Abraham believed God and it was imputed to him for righteousness. And Abraham became a friend of God, **James 2: 23**. A friend of God loves for faith works by love, **Galations 5: 6**. And because we love him we keep His Commandments: he that loves me keep my words, and he that love me will be loved of the Father, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him, **John 14: 23**. Thus we realize Jesus' prayer: that they may be one as Thou Father are in me and I in Thee, that they might be one in us, that the world might believe that Thou has sent me, **John 17: 21**. A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, **John 13: 34**. This the Church in Philemon's House was recognized as doing: the House of Friends love the Lord Jesus and all saints.

**V12 Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:**

Thus it is much in keeping with their nature to love and forgive one who formerly was disobedient and now reconciled to the body of Christ, being a child of one such as Paul the aged.

**V19 I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.**

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Our own lives we owe to those who are godly in Christ Jesus therefore we ought to heed their righteous instructions and to receive those who have been born again in Christ Jesus.

### **GODLY:**

**V6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.**

Friends of God communicate by their lifestyle the efficacy of their relationship with God, in that, Christ lives out his life in them in the performance of every good or godly works. These are they that are sealed or fully settled in His truth that goodness comes forth.

**V13 Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead, he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:**

By the Spirit of God a friend sharpens the countenance of his friend as iron sharpens iron, **Proverbs 27: 17**, even so a merry heart or joy sharpens the soul to dwell in the abundance that God provides by His Spirit, therefore, a merry heart make fat the bones, **Proverbs 17: 22**. Thus Onesimus or Joy ministers to Paul, the godly, in the bonds of the gospel instead of his friend, Philemon for a time.

**V20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.**

The greatest joy is when friends accept and share the same joy in the Lord; this is refreshing to the godly and motivates them further in the ministry of the Grace of God. This is the same joy among angels in heaven: there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repents than over ninety and nine just persons who needs no repentance, **Luke 15: 7**. This is the joy Paul anticipates when his friend, Philemon, receives, the son of his own bowels, Onesimus.



# THE JOY OF FRIENDS

## PHILEMON 1

When the redeemed enters the presence of the Author of their eternal salvation there is even so ecstatic joy appropriately described as the fullness of joy.

### THE RECOUNT:

**V7 For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.**

This is the testimony of the godly and contented that they have great joy and consolation in the love of a 'friend' for the bowels of the saints are thereby refreshed by such fellowship. The 'bowels' refers to the capacity of the saints to reproduce offspring for the kingdom. Thus, the Church, the House of God is to be a House of Friends, and each a friend of one another, and all friends of God. Thus the Presence of the Lord is here, He says, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. As Abraham believed and became a friend of God, even so we who believe have become friends of God and every brother, a friend of one another. How do they know these things:

- 1 though the 'least,' yet being godly and contented, they experienced the greatest gain, joy, and by this know that they are 'dear to God.' Therefore, the least and the greatest cohabit in this relationship. Thus they are aptly qualified to write unto their 'friends' who share in the same experience. This is Paul and Timothy who wrote unto Philemon and,
- 2 The Woman of Colossae, Apphia, and the Horse Rider, Archippus, effectively, this is the Church in the House of Friend, a complement of the male and female genders.
- 3 The friendship is facilitated and sustained by God's grace and peace, who is in the midst of thee, O Israel, which the godly and contented, bestows upon those who are enjoined in this relationship.

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- 4 Being contented they constantly express thanksgiving in prayers for their friends.
- 5 Being enjoined in the common fellowship they heard of their faith and love not only to the Lord Jesus but to all saints.
- 6 They desired that their friends' faith be perfect in acknowledging every good work in Christ Jesus, who dwells in their heart.

**V14 But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.**

Each have supreme regard for the other in this spiritual relationship allowing one another to willingly decide to appropriate the benefits, advantages, pleasures and joys of the fellowship. As Jesus stands at the door and knock and if any man hears his voice and open, he will come in and sup with him even so they allow each member to decide to partake of the joy. Though the Spirit empowers by many gifts yet he never forces, it has to be whosoever will, may come. Whenever the will is exercised the benefit derived reinforces the value of wise choices and the participants affirm themselves in the course chosen that they continue in this wise path. The free will and reason accompanies the greatest gift of all, that is: life. The mature member consistently makes these wise choices. For eternal joy accompanies eternal life and joy is scarcely sustained and experienced when coerced it has to be by the free will exercised. Thus in the recount:

- 8 though empowered, by the spiritual gift, with much boldness or courage to enjoin 'friend' in this matter.
- 9 yet the fruit of the spirit, love, takes precedence that he rather beseeches. This is the basis for infusing the friendship with joy.
- 10 I beseech you for my son, the born again: joy or Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds. The joy of the Lord floods our soul when the conditions are met and is not dependent on our natural circumstances. For example, those who are born again experience this joy, for He hath appointed to give: the oil of joy for mourning, **Isaiah 61: 3**, or godly sorrowing unto repentance. Also, in trials, he

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comforts by the gift of the Holy Ghost, **Romans 5: 3-4**; that floods our soul with joy and peace. Paul was especially buoyed by Onesimus conversion as Angels in heaven experience joy over one sinner that repents, **Luke 15: 7**.

- 11 Which in times past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and me. How is joy of benefit and profit to us? The joy of the Lord is our strength, **Nehemiah 8: 10**. The Joy of the Lord can only be experienced as we exercise our faith in Him. Ask, that ye might receive, that your joy might be full, **John 16: 24**. As His friends we must exercise our faith to receive His joy. And faith works by love as we love we meet the condition to experience the joy of the Lord which is our strength.
- 12 Whom I have sent receive him as my own bowels or offspring. Joy is borne of our own bowels and is to be value as such. Friendship with God yields or produces the joy which we experience with him.
- 13 Whom I would have kept that he should in thy stead minister unto me in the bonds of the gospel. Joy is a help meet for the gospel. Receive ye the Joy of our Lord.

**V21 Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than, I say.**

The relationship exudes with confidence for the brethren knows each other, knowing that, once the truth is shared a friend by reason will comply even to the degree greater than that which is asked of him. This is the confidence we have of them that are born again of God.

- 15 Eternal joy akin to the one who appropriates God's grace and peace. All earthly joy fades away.
- 16 This joy is not subservient but of equal standing with all, beloved, being a fruit of the Spirit. Both the godly and the friendly can relate

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to the love of joy but how much more the friendly, seeing that he is naturally affectionate and fond of, both in the flesh and the Lord.

17 The godly and the friendly are partners in this relationship. That is they are friends. Therefore as a friend behold and is changed unto godliness, even so, are we to receive joy as godliness and contentment.

18 If in the former life we were wronged or suffered because of earthly joy, godlikeness atones for that account.

19 we ourselves owe everything to Godliness. For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life, **John 3: 16**. Therefore, Godliness, shall repay all we are owed by this gift of life.

20 Let me have joy of thee in the Lord, yea brother, refresh my bowels in the Lord. Friends infuse each other with joy.

### CONCLUSION:

22 If we exercise faith and prepare lodgings, our hearts, to receive the gift of godliness with contentment then we shall receive it. This is the confidence of the testimony of Paul that through our prayers he who personifies: godliness and contentment, will be given unto the House of Friends, the Church.

23 He also reminds us that with this gift comes also Ephaphras, who personifies: devotion, he was with him being a fellow prisoner of Christ. The Spirit of God empowers us with such devotion when we are changed into God's likeness.

24 The different aspects of the devotion of the born again are highlighted by these other persons, who also greets us:

\* We are dedicated to honour and love our parents, mothers and fathers, this is Marcus.

## THE JOY OF FRIENDS PHILEMON 1

- \* We exercise the best ruling our judgement in our affairs being obedient to the judgement of the Lord which are altogether true and righteous, this is Aristarchus.
- \* We engage ourselves in the Lord's harvest of souls, the first and the last, that is at the former and the latter rain, this is Demas.
- \* We follow the path outlined by the Word of God, which is a lamp unto our feet and a Light unto our path, this is Luke.

All these are fellow labourers of the godly and contented, devoted to the cause of God.

25 Finally, the benediction, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. So let it be. (Amen)

PHILEMON 1

Little is much when God is in it: godliness with contentment is great gain (joy). Ye are our epistle seen and read of all men. Each person in the Chapter was used of God to personify the godly traits of contentment, joy, faith, love, truth and friendship. This is our experience when we live in the Presence of God which is not dependent on an abundance of material things

	Name of God	Spirit	Genesis	Exodus
Name of God	<b>LITTLE</b> Paul (least or little), a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy (dear to God) our brother, unto Philemon (friendly) our dearly beloved, and fellow laborer,	<b>MUCH</b> Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,	<b>JOY</b> For perhaps he (JOY) therefore, departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him forever;	<b>FAITH</b> But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.
Spirit	<b>CHURCH: WOMAN &amp; RIDER</b> And to our beloved Apphia (a woman of Colossae), and Archippus (horse ruler) our fellow soldier, and to the church in thy house:	<b>LOVE</b> Yet for love's sake, I rather beseech thee, being such a one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.	<b>BELOVED</b> Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, especially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh and in the Lord?	<b>DEVOTED:</b> There salute thee Epaphras (devoted to), my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus;
Genesis	<b>GRACE &amp; PEACE:</b> Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.	<b>JOY:</b> I beseech thee for my son Onesimus (profitable: to desire pleasure or advantage from, to have JOY), whom I have begotten in my bonds:	<b>PARTNERS:</b> If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself.	<b>LIGHT:</b> Mark (dedicated to Mars (the 5th planet), Aristarchus (best ruling, God's judgement), Demas (probably Demetris: followere of Demeter, the goddess of corn and harvest , Luke (light, white), my fellow laborers.
Exodus	<b>GRATITUDE:</b> I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,	<b>PROFITABLE:</b> Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:	<b>SINS FORGIVEN:</b> If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account,	<b>ABUNDANT LIFE:</b> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.
Levi	<b>FAITH &amp; LOVE:</b> Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;	<b>MINE:</b> Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:	<b>DEBT:</b> I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.	
Numbers	<b>GODLY:</b> That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.	<b>MINISTER:</b> Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead, he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:	<b>REFRESHER:</b> Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.	
Deuterios	<b>CONSOLATION:</b> For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother.	<b>CHOICE OF FREE WILL:</b> But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.,	<b>OBEDIENCE:</b> Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than, I say.	