



THE JOY-FILLED SINNER



PART I: FINDING THE JOY OF THE LORD

1. The joy-filled sinner is the sinner who confesses his sins, 32:5.

- (Psalm 32:5 ESV) I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah
- A. His sins have been forgiven because he has acknowledged his sins before God—"to you."
- B. He turned from concealing sin to confessing sin.
- C. He came to a point in time where he changed his mind about his sinful actions (repentance) and now says the same thing God says about his sin and his sinfulness (confession).



2. The joy-filled sinner is the sinner whose sins have been forgiven, 32:1-2.

- (Psalm 32:1-2 ESV) Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- A. Blessed is the sinner who finds joy in the LORD in the forgiveness of his sins.
- B. His transgression (evildoing and rebellion) have been forgiven—lifted up, carried away.
 - i. Transgression [pesha] is evildoing; the violation of a law or a duty or moral principle; rebellion, sin, trespass.
 - ii. Forgiven means to lift up; to be taken away, be carried off, be swept away.
 - (Psalm 103:11-12 ESV) For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
 - (Isaiah 38:17 ESV) Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back.
 - (Isaiah 43:25 ESV) I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.
 - (Micah 7:19 ESV) He will again have

compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

C. Living as a forgiven person means the joy of living in God's world in harmony with God—no longer a rebel and a trespasser.

D. His sin will not be counted against him.

- i. Sin is an act or feeling that transgresses something forbidden or ignores something required by God's law or character; whether in thought, feeling, speech, or action; it carries the idea of failure or 'missing' a mark or goal.
- ii. It is the same idea as in Romans 3:23.
 - (Romans 3:22-23 ESV) The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- iii. In Romans 3:23 "sinned" means to be without a share in; to miss the mark; to err, be mistaken; to miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honor, to do or go wrong.
- iv. Our text clearly shows that missing the mark is falling short of God's glory.
- v. In Christ our position is near to God.
 - (Ephesians 2:13 ESV) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- vi. In practice we will still sometimes/often fall short of God's glory and need to be in the continuous wash cycle of repentance and confession of sin.

3. The joy-filled sinner is the sinner who does not conceal his sin, 32:2-4.

- (Psalm 32:2-4 ESV) Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah
- A. He has learned the bitter lesson of deceit in not acknowledging and confessing his sin before God.

- i. Deceit is the concealment or distortion of the truth for the purpose of misleading; an act of keeping the truth hidden; concealing or misrepresenting the truth; giving false impressions.
 - ii. Concealing his transgressions and sins brought physical, mental and emotional suffering.
 - iii. Dale Ralph Davis calls this “the mercy of misery.”
 - iv. This suffering was unrelenting—day and night—because it was the hand of the Father was upon him.
 - (Hebrews 12:5–7a, 10b–11 ESV) And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. 6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. ... he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
 - v. This suffering under the discipline of the hand of the Father is for our good.
- B. He has learned the lesson of acknowledging the truth of his actions and thoughts before God so as to not have those sins counted against him but instead having his sins “*taken off the books*” by God himself.

4. The joy-filled sinner is the sinner who calls on God in prayer while God may still be found, 32:6-7.

- (Psalm 32:6–7 ESV) Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah
- A. When facing (and sometimes falling to) the daily perils of sin, the joy-filled sinner is neither reluctant nor hesitant in confessing sin and calling out for help.
- (1 John 1:8–9 ESV) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth

is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- (Hebrews 4:15–16 ESV) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
 - (Hebrews 10:19 ESV) Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus.
- B. The joy-filled sinner calls on the LORD in prayer and is lifted up and delivered from the great waters of the ravages of sin—our sins, others’ sins, consequences of guilt, false guilt, attack by enemies, etc.
- (Psalm 18:3–6 ESV) I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. 4 The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; 5 the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. 6 In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.
 - (Psalm 18:16–19 ESV) He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters. 17 He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. 18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support. 19 He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me.
 - (Isaiah 55:6–7 ESV) Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- C. The joy-filled sinner practices the spiritual discipline of calling out to the LORD in his time of need and finds God to be his hiding place.
- D. In his hiding place the joy-filled sinner is protected from trouble and surrounded with songs of deliverance.



PART 2: LIVING IN THE JOY OF THE LORD

5. The joy-filled sinner is counseled and instructed by God on the path of life because he willingly submits to and stays near to God, 32:8-9.

- (Psalm 32:8-9 ESV) I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. 9 Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.
- A. He is filled with joy as the LORD instructs him in the ways and thoughts of God on the path of life.
- (Psalm 16:11 ESV) You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
 - (Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- B. He is filled with joy as the LORD gives him direction in life and teaches him how to live in the presence of God in the way everlasting.
- (Isaiah 48:17-18 ESV) Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go. 18 Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.
 - (Psalm 139:23-24 ESV) Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!
- C. He is blessed because he stays near to God without the need for bit and bridle—unlike a stubborn, ignorant horse or mule.
- (Proverbs 26:3 ESV) A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools.

- (Jeremiah 6:16-17 ESV) Thus says the Lord: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' 17 I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not pay attention.'

D. The joy-filled sinner does not live the "unblessed" life of the one who lives in the realm of the wicked.

- (Psalm 1:1 ESV) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers.
- E. The joy-filled sinner does not live the "unblessed" life of the one who does not delight in the principles of life and truth as given by his Creator.
- (Psalm 1:2 ESV) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

6. The joy-filled sinner trusts in the LORD and is surrounded by his steadfast love, 32:10-11.

- (Psalm 32:10-11 ESV) Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD. 11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!
 - (Psalm 36:5 ESV) Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.
- A. The life of the wicked (many sorrows) is sharply contrasted with the life of the person who trusts in the LORD.
- B. The person who trusts in the LORD is surrounded, not by sorrows, but by the steadfast love of God encircling his life on every front.
- C. Surrounded by the steadfast love of the LORD the righteous are to be glad in the LORD and rejoice.
- D. Surrounded by the steadfast love of the LORD the upright in heart are to shout for joy.