

- A. What gives you joy? This answer varies a great deal among people. Legitimate, wholesome sources of joy can differ even among Christians.
- B. Earlier in Lu 9:1, Jesus “**He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.**” In today’s text, Jesus gave similar power and authority to a greater number.

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| God has given you many reasons to rejoice. | I. CHRIST DELEGATED HIS AUTHORITY II. REJOICE IN YOUR SALVATION IN CHRIST |
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I. CHRIST DELEGATED HIS AUTHORITY →v17

- A. Jesus, the divine Son of God, gave the seventy powerful authority. As v17 says, He gave them authority over demons through Christ’s name.
1. They didn’t have that power and authority in and of themselves. Their authority was delegated by God Himself.
 - a. An ambassador can speak to a foreign nation on behalf of the government he represents because of the authority that has been delegated to him or her.
 - b. In the same fashion the 70 had the delegated authority of Christ.
 2. Jesus and the disciples had the demons in subjection as evidence that Satan’s kingdom was being conquered. That is why Jesus said in v18, “**I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.**”
 - a. Before the incarnation of Christ, the vast majority of the world was steeped in spiritual darkness and unbelief.
 - b. The only light of salvation was given to His chosen people Israel and even they often failed to live up to their holy calling.
- B. Christ further explained the authority He gave His disciples with a passage that has been misinterpreted by some. → v19
1. A parallel passage to this is found at the very end of Mark’s gospel. → Mark 16:15-18
 2. Churches in West Virginia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas handled copperheads and rattlesnakes while praying and dancing to praise music. They also drank strychnine poison!
 - a. One answer for this is what Jesus told Satan after his second temptation: “**You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.**”¹
 - b. Another answer is that these signs have already been demonstrated.
 - 1) New tongues were spoken at Pentecost and for a time until that partial revelation was done away with after the perfect, complete Word of God was given (1 Cor 13:8-9).
 - 2) In Acts 28:3, Paul was bitten by a venomous viper when picking up firewood while shipwrecked on the island of Malta. No harm came to him.
 3. Today’s application is from Rom 16:20 when Paul gave the benediction saying, “**The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.**”

¹ See Mat 4:7 when Jesus cited Deut 6:16.

II. REJOICING IN YOUR SALVATION IN CHRIST →**v20**

- A. You should be happy if your name is enrolled in a Sunday school class or even as a member of a church; however, what is most important is that your name is recorded (enrolled) in heaven.
1. In **Rev 21**, we are told that in the new heaven, new earth, and in new Jerusalem, **“nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (v27)**.
 2. For those whose names are not written in the book of life, they will be cast into the lake of fire to suffer the second, eternal death (**Rev 20:14-15**).
- B. During the life of Christ, the scribes, pharisees, and others who expected to have God’s approval actually didn’t believe in Jesus as the Messiah because the gospel was hidden from them. → **v21**
1. He came to His own people, yet they didn’t receive Him as their Messiah,² especially those who considered themselves wise and learned in the things of God.
 2. Their names would have been written in the book of life if they were truly wise and had an enlightened, spiritual understanding of how many OT prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus.
 - a. Their problem was that they were only wise in their own estimation and not wise unto salvation. They were not willing to humble themselves as children before Christ.
 - b. In God’s sovereign plan, the Son had not willed for them to have a revealed, saving faith in the Him and in His gospel. → **v22**
 - 1) The doctrine of election teaches that salvation is of the Lord.
 - 2) None of you came to saving faith because you were more intelligent or deserving than your unsaved neighbors.
- C. What Jesus said next to His believing disciples also applies to you who believe. → **vv23-24**
1. Your eyes are blessed if you have seen and believed in Christ the Holy Scriptures.
 2. Your ears are blessed if you have heard the good news of the revealed Christ in the gospel.
 3. Your spiritual sight and hearing are a gift from God’s sovereign hand.
 4. The prophets and believing kings of old looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, yet they only saw Him dimly through types and shadows.
 - a. **Heb 11:13**: **“All these died in faith without receiving the promises... having welcomed them from a distance.”** Those present witnessed the incarnate Christ!
 - b. We have a greater blessing in having a full revelation of the person and work of Jesus in the completed Scriptures.

Review, further application, and conclusion:

² **Jn 1:11**