

Deuteronomy 28:47

Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything,

If you have never read Deuteronomy chapter 28 or haven't read it in a while, I would encourage you to do so. This was part of Moses talk with the Children of Israel before He was to die. It's really pretty cool, because when you first start reading it, it tells of all these blessing from God that Israel will get if they simply follow the Lord whole heartedly. Then it goes on to tell after that how they will suffer if they don't, with today's devotional verse as part of that.

But even though this section is talking about how they will suffer for not being obedient, one thing that struck me was how they were to enjoy serving God and enjoying His blessings, and that was ***with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything***. And the sad thing was, they didn't, because they thought they would have it better by following (or serving) the world and the ways of the pagan nations they were supposed to destroy.

Yet how many times do we read of God's blessing throughout the bible and that we can have if we simply follow what He says? Yet we still make stupid choices and run after the things of the world instead. When we do and start to suffer for it, we can blame no one else but ourselves for not being obedient to God and His word.

But what if we actually lived today's devotional verse, minus the first four words. What would that look like? It would look like this: ***serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything***. I mean how awesome does that sound. God blesses us abundantly and in return we are to enjoy all those blessings and serve Him ***with joy and gladness of heart***. That sounds like a no duh to me.

But still, we don't, and why? Truthfully, satan is a really good salesman, because he gets us to believe his lies by putting it in cool shiny packaging that makes it seems like we can't live without what he is selling us. That's what Eve thought when he sold her on eating the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

† ***Genesis 3:4-5 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."***

Did you catch satan's little dig here, making Eve think that she just couldn't live without it? ***You will not surely die***. But the truth is she could have lived without it, forever, but instead the lie she bought from satan, was to die for, literally.

Jesus brings this all into perspective, way better than I ever could when He said:

† **John 10:10** *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

So, will you keep believing the father of lies and continue being miserable? Or, will you believe the way, the TRUTH and the life and enjoy His blessings because you have chosen to believe His truth!

† *Serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything.*

† **Philippians 4:4 (NLT2)** *Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!*