Journey Community Christian Church
Weekend Service Times:
Sundays @ 10:30 AM | Saturdays @ 6:00 PM

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Journey Enews

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Admiration by Bobby Duncan

The lady walked over to me and said, “I admire you sitting here on this bench each day. You have such peace around you.” I thanked her for her kind words. I was unaware she was noticing so closely. I began to describe how everyone can have this peace around them each day. For the next few minutes I encouraged her, saying, “God is with with you, also, not just a pastor next door.”

Isn’t it true? Inner peace is available for everyone. Peace and joy in the Bible is never considered circumstantial. Never disbursed based on wealth or status. Biblical joy is never about who we are. Instead, joy in the Bible comes from Who is with us. God is with us.

Joy is described in the Bible as a gift of God each day, regardless of our circumstances. Unlike happiness that is based upon “happenings.” Have you thought about this lately? Happiness and joy are not the same. Happiness depends upon our good fortune – our “happenstance.” Joy on the other hand is a bonus, that arrives each morning like a gift in our mailbox.

Joy depends upon God’s faithfulness, in spite of our lamenting. “Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.” Lamentations 3:23 NLT

Even on our worst day, tomorrow brings renewed promise of better news because God is always with us. “And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Mt 28:20 NLT

Growing up on a farm, we had limited resources compared to many city kids I knew. I admired the big houses and shiny cars parked in driveways in town. Much later, with God’s help, I discovered newfound admiration for all kinds of people – people with real joy and peace – no matter the size of their house or how shiny their car.

The next time you’re out in public, take a moment to notice things about the people around you. It could be the smiling barista behind the counter at a coffee shop, now making your favorite beverage. They may take pleasure in serving others. This is an admirable trait we should notice.

I invited my kind neighbor to check things out inside Journey Church soon. She said she just might. The mission and goal each day is for people to notice and admire our effort, calm demeanor, and kindness even to strangers. Eventually this can lead to a helpful Jesus conversation where you share your own journey in life.

Everyone has a story. Make others curious until they may ask, “How do you have such peace around you each day?” Let them know Jesus changes everything. He settles us even in a storm.

“Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Mt 11:28-30 NIV

Multiply and amplify: Be admirable.