

Joy and Peace as Spiritual Charismatas in Apophthegmata Patrum

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Abstract

Man tends to joy as the flower tends to the sun and as everything that expresses life tends towards an inviting climate, enabling the fulfillment of all underlying virtualities of this life.

The coming of Christ in the world is the good news of joy and peace. Besides, after His Resurrection, His message for the Dives is “Rejoice!” and for the Apostles “Peace be with you!”. Troubles of everyday life do not frustrate the believer’s joy. Even troubles because of love for Christ are new reasons for joy.

Joy is organically and inseparably linked to peace, as do all other virtues which are the unitary and undivided fruit of the Holy Spirit. Serenity and gayety have always been essential features of Christian life. Peace is what unites men among themselves and with God and this union arises joy in the soul. The two are living experiences that have an eschatological perspective. To understand the meaning of joy and peace as living experiences, I propose in this study their analysis as charismatas of the Holy Spirit in the life of the desert Holy Fathers.

Human life is impossible without peace and joy. The need and importance of serenity and calm in human life is as great as the necessity for sunlight and oxygen, and water with the two components, for all that expresses life on all her plans.

I want to conclude this study by the following words of St. Paul: May the God of hope fill you with all the joy and peace given by faith, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13).