

SERMON DISCUSSION STARTERS

Take some time this week to study the references to God highlighted in (Isaiah 54:5). He is called the “Maker” (see Isaiah 43:7; 44:2; 51:13), the “Husband” (see parallel in Eph. 5:25), The “Lord of Hosts,” the “Redeemer and Holy One of Israel” (see 43:14; 48:17; 49:7), and finally “God of the whole earth” (see Josh 3:11; Ps 47:8). As you come to understand the person and work of God more fully, spend time praising him for who He is and what He’s done.

Even if your present circumstances are barren or desolate, you are called to respond with joy because of the transforming power of the Gospel. How does the good news of Christ empower you to have joy? How can the reality of eternity diminish the pain of present difficulty? Are you living through the tough things in your life with a sense of Joy? If not, what needs to change in your thinking and behavior?

What are you doing in your life right now that demonstrates faith-filled expectation in the future work of the Gospel? How are you contributing to the building of larger “tents” for the expansion of God’s family? Do you need to make some changes concerning your investment of time or resources when it comes to living expectantly? Are you an optimistic enthusiast about future possibilities for the Gospel? God will spread his family to the ends of the earth. In faith, will you expect great things from God and attempt great things for God?

Do you have confidence in the redemptive and rescuing work of God in your life? Are you at rest in his forgiveness? Have you let go of your sinful past and are you focused on God's future plan. He is the Holy One and cannot abide sin, but he is also your Redeemer who forgives. Read (1 John 1:9) and if you have unconfessed sin, turn things over to God and seek his forgiveness. Then allow his loving kindness to calm your heart and settle your soul.

TODAY'S NOTES