

# REAL JOY!

by *Thelma Wells, Contributing Editor*



This year has been very stressful for me and my family! One of my daughter's has been very sick, the other one had a car accident and then her husband had another wreck a week later! This has been a year of issues and challenges. I

think I've handled most everything pretty well... until of all things my cell phone goes on the blink!

Like I said, I handle things pretty well and I don't get frustrated easily, but a non-working cell phone, now that's a serious problem! I couldn't bear the thought of not being able to get in contact with my family. I sent the phone in for repair but wouldn't you know it, it needed replacing. The new phone arrives, but was not activated. Something was wrong with it too!

When I took it back to the dealer, they discovered I had too many photographs on my old phone that would not transfer or download to the new phone. I guess I've been snapping a few too many pictures. I told the technician helping me to kill the pictures. Honestly, I didn't even know or remember what pictures I had taken anyway. Just activate my cell phone, please! I was so distraught over not having instant cell phone access to anyone at anytime! Isn't that crazy?

Finally I have my new phone, but the saga of frustration continued for more than a week. Dur-

ing my travels, I either left the charger in Dallas or left the phone in my room. I was agitated by the inconvenience of not having my cell phone when and where I wanted it.

A cell phone was disrupting my personal peace and happiness! I allowed a minor inconvenience to disrupt my happiness. But thank goodness, nothing can ever steal my joy. Happiness is a temporary condition of satisfaction and when we're not satisfied we're no happy. When I think about the millions of people in the world who have so much more than inconveniences to worry about, it makes me think about more serious matters.

People are concerned daily with what they are going to eat and wear, sanitation and health, diseases and sickness, grief and sorrow, heartache and disappointment, legal issues and mental distress, hopelessness and despair, anger and bitterness, abuse and depression, war and crime, to name a few of life's everyday challenges for much of the world. When I think about the hurting that goes on in our world, I recall a passage of scripture that gives me real joy. Jesus came to earth to give us real JOY.

In Isaiah 61:1-3 He promised, ". . . to preach good news to the poor . . . to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort those who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair."

How often do we make big deals out of simple inconveniences in our lives? Think about the times when you let little insignificant things overtake you and consume your time and energy.

# S P O T L I G H T

Talk to yourself, I did. *“Thelma, get over it – a broken cell phone is not a matter of life and death. Don’t confuse momentary happiness with lasting joy! What is joy? The calm assurance that you can go through all your issues and know that Jesus is walking with you turning your despair into the JOY of the Lord. That’s real joy for He is our everlasting JOY!*

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