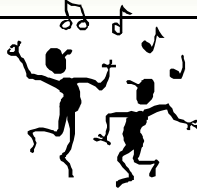


“Multi-Purposed Celebrating”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Why is it important for Believers in Christ to celebrate? What purpose does celebration serve?



Investigating this, let us look at the life of King David.

12 ...David went down and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing...

14 David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, 15 while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets. 16 As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart. 2 Sam. 6:12, 14-16 (NIV)

David understood that celebrating is a part of worship. He celebrated the ark's return to Jerusalem out of his love and reverence for the LORD.

David's celebrating also showed those watching the appropriate way to honor God.

Another byproduct of celebrating is that heart motives are revealed. David's wife Michal did not participate in the celebration physically or with her heart, otherwise she would have seen past his “undignified behavior” and loved David all the more for his worshipful heart.

Notes:

This New Year, let us live lives of celebration of Christ's coming, living, dying, and rising again for us. Our celebration honors our Heavenly Father, shows new believers how to live lives of celebration, and exposes ungrateful attitudes and other ungodly mindsets that may be in the people we influence or in ourselves.

Celebrate God's goodness and mercy and watch how God's many purposes are accomplished as we celebrate!

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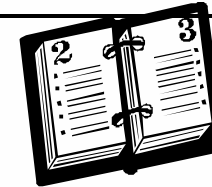
Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

“Omega And Alpha” (Teaching Sketch)

Revelation 22:12-21 (NIV)



Omega and Alpha, yes, I know what I am saying. Oh, yes you may feel as though I have it backwards. You may think it should be said

Alpha and Omega, the first and the last. Yes, Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega.

The End Is A Beginning
Think back on your own life, hasn't every ending been followed by a new beginning? Let's look at some examples. Each night is followed by a new day. When you completed one year in school it was followed by a new year in school. When you graduated from school it was the end of one endeavor only to be followed by another endeavor.

Many people find themselves changing, or finishing one, career only to start another. It has become commonplace in the western societies to have as many as three or four different careers prior to retiring! Thus, I say the end is just a doorway to a new beginning! New beginnings are

things we need not to shrink back from, but transition into them.

When Jesus called each of his disciples, their lives

changed dramatically! All of them were in secular work and untrained for spiritual matters. The disciples, without a doubt, must have

had some concerns regarding their new lives as they abandon their means of livelihood to follow the Master. They did, however, follow him. Starting well is always a good way to start doing and experiencing something new.

Start Well

It does help to start well, but it is not necessary. If you look at the lives of many very successful people, their

Notes:

ful-fill

1. To bring into actuality;
2. To carry out .
3. To measure up to; satisfy.
4. To bring to an end; complete.

Ω

A

Scripture:

Revelation 22:12-21 (NIV)

12"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

13I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

14"Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

15Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

16"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you^[a] this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

17The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And

Notes:

[a]
The
Greek is
plural.

let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

18I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.

19And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

20He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

21The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

"Omega And Alpha" (Teaching Sketch)

Revelation 22:12-21 (NIV)

early endeavors were miserable attempts. Peter, as I recall, did not do well at walking on water!

Finish Well

The important thing is how you finish. Most people who finish well are people who ignore all those well meaning and sometimes not so well meaning friends and relatives who have all the reasons it can't be done, and if it can be done, certainly not by you. If you think that way, well, you are finished before you start and sadly, you'll be right.

The people who finish well are those who persevere.

The words quit and compromise are not in their vocabulary. The Apostle Paul spoke of this often. You succeed when you get up one more time than you fall. Proverbs says if a righteous man falls seven times yet he will get up again. Isn't grace great?

Fulfill Your Destiny

Destinies are fulfilled by being in tune with God. It is he who will raise you up again in this life and the next.

Walk in the promise. God will fulfill his plan in you if you seek him first. You will have a great new alpha, beginning, after the omega, ending.

Notes: