

## *Guarding Your Influence on God's Emotions*

God is not a mere mist, fog, or impersonal thing. He isn't anything like manmade gods. He is a Person who thinks, plans, foresees, loves, rejoices or feels sad.

### **God and His Emotions**

Genesis 1:31 declares, "*God saw all that he had made and it was very good.*" He had fun enjoying the work of his hands! Heavenly Father, eternal Christ and Holy Spirit reveled in the wonder and beauties of creation. The angels also joined in their happiness.<sup>(1)</sup> As the Lord viewed the fruit of his creativity, his heart rejoiced.

Chapter two of Genesis expands God's revelation of mankind's earliest days. God breathed his life into Adam's lifeless body. This divine breath created Adam's human spirit which activated the physical, psychological and emotional parts of the first man. The Lord rejoiced over Adam and Eve with singing.<sup>(2)</sup> The first two humans and their Creator relished every moment of their fellowship.

Then we come to Genesis chapter six which shows another side of God's emotions. Verse 5 points out, "*The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.*" Verse six describes God's painful emotions: "*The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.*"

God is an emotional person who is **influenced by the way humans treat him**. On the other hand, remember that he never loses control of his emotions. Can you imagine how sad he felt when Adam and Eve turned against him and his Word? Nevertheless, he shed the first blood in order to make "*garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.*"<sup>(3)</sup> When he hurts, he continues loving!

### **Guard Your Influence by Staying Spirit-Filled**

Love for others motivates us to guard their emotions. We watch our words and behavior in order to gladden, and not grieve, our loved ones. This is especially true of our relationship with the God who loves us and who is loved by us. No wonder Scripture declares, "*Love...always protects*" the loved one!<sup>(4)</sup>

Psalm 104:34 beautifully expresses the heart desire of everyone who loves

the Lord: *“May my meditation be pleasing to Him.”* Guard your influence on God’s emotions by keeping yourself full of his Spirit.

Jesus’ apostles were like all other humans—filled with good intentions they could not carry out. They followed Jesus, tried doing his will, lived at his side and then, failed Jesus when he needed them most.

During Jesus’ trial Peter stood on the outskirts of the crowd of onlookers. He warmed himself at a fire, while Jesus was interrogated by people who hated him. While Peter comforted himself around the fire someone asked if he followed Jesus. Three times Peter ardently denied any association with Jesus. Why? Because Peter lacked the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus made a very special promise to his followers: *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”*<sup>(5)</sup> The Holy Spirit releases divine motivation in us. Suddenly, we can carry out our godly desires because divine energy equips us to love him supremely. Loving God supremely compels us to care about our influence on his emotions. Honoring him, obeying him, pleasing him and making him proud of us becomes our paramount desire. *“We make it our goal to please him.”*<sup>(6)</sup>

**We care about our influence on the God who fills us with joy!**

## **Guard Your Influence by Staying Word Filled**

Throughout the Bible God refers to himself as “Father.” Jesus taught us to pray, *“Our Father in heaven.”*<sup>(7)</sup> The resurrected Jesus told his follower, Mary, to *“Go...to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father....’”*<sup>(8)</sup> Therefore, we read the book of Proverbs and apply references to “Father,” “Son,” or “Children” to our relationship with God.

*“My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad indeed; my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right.”*<sup>(9)</sup>

Can you imagine that? When our hearts are wise, gladness fills God’s heart! His inmost being rejoices when our lips speak what is right! Truly, wise human hearts and human lips that speak what is right fill God’s heart with singing.<sup>(10)</sup>

As we continue in Proverbs 23 we read verse 24.

*“The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him.”*

There it is again—we influence God’s emotions. But, there is more. In Proverbs 27:11 the Father says, *“Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart.”* Turning to Proverbs 29:3 we read the observation, *“A man who loves wisdom brings joy to his Father.”*

Since we impact God’s emotions we want to pursue the wisdom these verses speak about, the wisdom that rejoices our heavenly Father’s heart.

We find some very insightful directions in Proverbs 2:1, 5 and 6.

*“My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,...then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”*

God’s Word in us, controlling us and guiding us fills God’s heart—his inmost being—with inexpressible, hilarious joy! He gladly proclaims to the universe that we are his children and he is our Father!

Our Maker created us for a two-way relationship with himself. His emotions impact us and ours influence him. For this reason, we determine to choose emotions that bless the Lord!

**Footnotes:**

1. Job 38:4-7
2. Zephaniah 3:17
3. Genesis 3:21
4. 1 Corinthians 13:4 & 7
5. Acts 1:8
6. 2 Corinthians 5:9
7. Matthew 6:9-13
8. John 20:17
9. Proverbs 23:15-16
10. Zephaniah 3:17

