Forty Days of Purpose Devotional

Day 9 "God smiles when I trust Him."

No person has ever pleased the Father more than Jesus. How did Jesus live? By himself He did nothing, but only and always did what the Father asked Him to do (Jn 5:19). But Jesus did more than that – He REJOICED in what His Father was doing!

> *"At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure'."* (Luke 10:21 [NIV])

Jesus' trust in the Father was not grudging, but joyful. As no one else, Jesus knew that everything the Father did was utterly wise and utterly loving. In living according to His Father's will, Jesus knew that what He did was absolutely sure to produce the best possible results, for Himself and for everyone. Are you surprised (or offended) to think that Jesus was interested in His own eternal pleasure? The Scripture says:

> *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."* (Heb 12:2 [NIV])

- Jesus, as the exact representation of God's being, looked forward to eternal pleasure in fellowship with us, made possible by His suffering and death on the cross.
- Jesus trusted and rejoiced in the Father, and so in Him the Father was well pleased.
- We give God pleasure by living as Jesus did, trusting and rejoicing in the Father.

Picture the face of the glorified Christ in your mind, and now imagine Him looking at you in anticipation. If you knew what to do to bring a smile to that face, right now, would you do it? At every moment of your life there is not one thing, but MANY things you can do to make Him smile. You can praise Him, remember Him, talk about Him with others, faithfully do the work He has called you to do, or simply savor and share the joy of trusting Him. How hard is it to do these things for the One who loved you and gave His life for you? Go ahead – you'll enjoy it almost as much as He does!