



Outer Growth - Birthday

This *is* the day *which* the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

Birth - Isaiah 66:9

Identity - Genesis 1:27

Relatives - 1 Timothy 5:8

Time - Ecclesiastes 3:1

Happy - John 13:17

Day - Psalm 118:24, Matthew 6:11

Age - Proverbs 20:29

Year - Galatians 4:10

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday, happy birthday, happy birthday to you. The words "Happy Birthday" are a song traditionally sung by those who know you and your birthday. A birthday is your date of birth. Therefore, when that particular day arrives, the regular approach is to celebrate with family, relatives, and friends, to honor you that day. Depending on the age, some people commemorate the day with a simple birthday cake, a few close family members, and some delicious food to celebrate.

On the other hand, there are those birthday celebrants who have a celebrity-style extravaganza, including a large gathering of family, friends, neighbors, and other associates taking place at a great facility with catering and organized day events ahead for entertainment to welcome the birthday celebrant. For a believer, though, how should we celebrate a birthday? Psalms one hundred and eighteen, verse twenty-four, declares, "This *is* the day *which* the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." All should be

thankful for seeing the day arrive. To be grateful for life, to have strength, to live, breathe, and embrace the day.

The first thing a believer should do is thank God for their birthday because He is the one who made us and protects us to see this honorable day. The people of God should thank the Lord every day because we do not know what the day will bring or how it will end; only He knows. However, the ungodly may not be thankful to God, but appreciative of having the day come and anticipate great things ahead. Still, some do not make a big deal about celebrating birthdays, especially when they reach the elderly stage, while others may keep it private to avoid public guessing of their age. A birthday is supposed to be the best day of all other days.

There are only two birthdays recorded in the Word of God, celebrating one from the Old Testament, while the other is in the New Testament. Genesis forty, verse twenty, "And it came to pass the third day, *which was* Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants." The other scripture has two versions: Matthew fourteen, verse six, "But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod."

The other version is in Mark six, verses twenty-one to twenty-three, "But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give *it* thee. And he sware unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give *it* thee, unto the half of my kingdom."

All of these birthdays recorded here have something in common: God is not mentioned nor honored. Both Pharaoh and the King pleased themselves and did not care about anything else. Whatever they desired to do, get, or have, they did it without any consideration or hesitation. Both birthdays contain some form of entertainment or a show to please all the attendees. Finally, there was some drama: Pharaoh "lifted up the head of

the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants," while King Herod had the daughter of Herodias dance before them and gave her heart's desire, tutored by her mother. Birthdays are to celebrate our birth. The day we were born, when we first came to know life. A day to remember like no other. We came into existence on this birth date. The day we were made in the image of God, the Creator of heaven and earth, to start our lives.

How many remember the day of birth on their birthday date that they celebrate? Neither Pharaoh nor the King included God nor commemorated their birth, but only did the ungodly things that do not honor God but honor them. Today, birthday celebrants will do what they think is good. Whether right or wrong, making it more of a feel-good thing, far from the traditional way of celebration. The freedom to do what they want, godly or ungodly.

A birthday identifies the person who was born on that day. God created gender: "Male and female created He them," is the scripture at the end of Genesis one, verse twenty-seven, from the Old Testament. The identity is also found in the New Testament, as in Matthew nineteen, verse four. "And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female." God does not make mistakes. "Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? Saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut *the womb*? Saith thy God, from Isaiah sixty-six, verse nine.

Birthdays are pleasant to celebrate with family, friends, and relatives. However, what we expect from some does not necessarily go the way planned or as we think it should. There will be times when those you love will forget or not remember your birthday or date of birth. Others will have in mind and wish you a happy birthday, but do not do it sincerely. There will be others who will remember, but the gift or present did not live up to the expectations we had envisioned.

A birthday is taking the time to celebrate. It is a period to commemorate with family and loved ones, enjoying the day. However, the length of a celebration can range from a couple of hours to several hours. Still, some birthdays can last all day, right into the night. Birthdays can be "A

time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance," as in Ecclesiastes three, verse four.

However, there are two kinds of dances in the world today. There is a holy dance and an unholy one. A dance at a birthday can be exotic and demonic. The participants do not realize that such an atmosphere attracts the powers of darkness that can take over the minds and hearts of people. On the other hand, there is a holy dance that invites the Holy Spirit, accompanied by heavenly music that will attract the presence of God.

The daughter of Herodias danced before King Herod. The lust of the flesh and the attraction of the eyes did not realize that the exotic dance was setting him up for the enemy to do something wrong. King Herod, being overwhelmed by the daughter of Herodias, freely and unknowingly gave her an offer in Mark six, verse twenty-three. "And he swore unto her, Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give *it* thee, unto the half of my kingdom. A birthday is a time of enjoyment and happiness. Family, friends, and other loved ones are together, embracing the moment. A feast with gifts and other exciting things throughout the day, and all the favorite noises and voices in union leading for the birthday celebrant. However, if God is not involved, it can lead to unexpected drama and conflict that can rob the day or night of what can be more memorable than the birthday itself.

King Herod did not realize from the offer given after the dance that the wish from the daughter of Herodias would be in verse twenty-five.

"And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist." She came with **haste** to fulfill the request given by her mother, a holy man of God, and the king could not go back on his word. The dance created an atmosphere, causing the mother to ask about such a thing. "And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her," as in verse twenty-six.

Birthdays today use loud music with lots of people, and exotic dancing with other carnal activities pose a high risk of leading to unexpected tragedy. Often, some parties go

wrong with argument or conflict because of the chance that an unhappy person or people at the event decide to create a scene when it is the attraction of demonic activity, creating an opportunity to cause ruin at the event.

A birthday is the day you were born, which is the period when many begin to celebrate, anticipating the celebration at some point during that time. Many wait until their birthday to be joyful, which is normal. However, life is short, so why waste the days in between birthdays? Still, for believers, the approach to an upcoming birthday is to enjoy the days in between, being grateful to live to see another one. "O satisfy us early with thy mercy; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days," as in Psalms ninety, verse fourteen.

"So teach *us* to number our days, that we may apply *our* hearts unto wisdom," says Psalms ninety, verse twelve. The scripture here does not mean to know what day we are going to leave, but how we live within each day. For believers, the start of each morning should be as in verse eleven of Matthew six, "Give us this day our daily bread." Starting the day with God and ending it with Him is the best way to live. "For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased," says God in Proverbs nine, verse eleven.

Birthdays come with age. At a birthday celebration, what is the common question the celebrant will receive at their party? How old are you now? For some birthdays, celebrants will be happy to reveal their age. Today, kids, teens, young adults, and even some middle-aged people will respond to the age they reach.

On the other hand, some older people who have upcoming birthdays are cautious and sensitive about sharing their existence and would not want to reveal their age at a birthday. When the kids are young, they are happy to disclose their age, as in John nine, verse twenty-three, "Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him." (Although this verse is about the Pharisees questioning the healed man). The others are in Hebrews, like "past age" and "full age." Other terms found are years of age, great age, old age, very age, former age, and stricken in age.

A birthday is a change in years for the celebrant. It begins at birth when they are born

and live to reach their first year of life. Do they understand what is happening or going on around them during the celebration? They are innocent and learning, and continue in their infancy. The baby may see a cake, receive gifts, people smiling, decorations, music playing, but may not know the purpose.

The preschool years are when children learn to know and become accustomed to upcoming birthdays. They see the happy birthday cake, recognize the presents, and the decorations. The same for school-age kids. Asking their parents to invite some of their schoolmates and looking to receive particular gifts. Similar to adolescent kids, but more suggestive of their parents at a birthday party.

Birthdays for the young, middle, and late adulthood may be more extreme for birthdays that may include: a huge venue, a large food feast, and selective guests with an added program of events to follow: extended hours of celebration, alcoholic beverages, exotic dancing, and corruptive behavior.

A Birthday is celebrated with very little memory of the birth or being born. More emphasis on expectations to get and less gratitude for the privilege of living to see a new age at this stage of life.