



Links Players

Advent 2025 | Unspeakable Joy

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:8-9, ESV)

We have seen it all, haven't we? A player wins his first major! Another player wins his first tour event. Another comes from behind and notches a "W."

Typically, emotions overpower these men. In the moment, a surge of bottled-up feelings crashes into years of hopes, dreams, and expectations, and their mouths can't keep up with what they want to say.

Call me a wimp if you want, but when I see a tour player fall apart after achieving a lifelong dream, I connect with them emotionally.

Granted, there are a few players who stay stoic after going through the gauntlet of various pressures, but overall, most of these guys drop their guard and give us a glimpse into their souls.

A recent example of this kind of joy is Rory's victory at Augusta National. Watching him walk from the 18th green, past the CBS tower, between the patrons, with tears on his face, gave me chills.

Somewhere between that moment and putting on the green jacket, Rory regained his composure and spoke eloquently about what "it meant to him." But all of us know, deep down, what he really felt was "inexpressible."

Search through the annals of history to find the greatest orators of all time—Demosthenes, Cicero, Lincoln, Churchill—ancient and modern—, and we discover that every one of them would tell us that there are times when words are entirely inadequate for the occasion.

Ask a mother, seconds after giving birth to a newborn, what she is thinking, and more than likely, it will be "tears of joy." Ask a mom or dad to tell you what they are feeling right after watching their son win the Heisman Trophy, and, more than likely, it will be quivering lips.

Many times, words can't fully express what we're feeling. The word "Joy" is easy to spell with just three letters. But expressing joy is a whole different ball game.

When what we've been searching for our entire lives finally appears after eluding us, the dam breaks, and rivers of joy flood our souls. This is what Peter describes!

When the apostle Peter writes, "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible..." he is describing the unrivaled joy that occurs when a creature meets their Creator.

The mystery of emptiness, that feeling we call "something is missing in my life," is finally solved when we find our Maker. Having our hearts ravished by the Lover of our Souls is the journey we all are on, knowingly or unknowingly.

Open your heart to the one we cannot see now! Let him flood your heart with love, forgiveness, and unspeakable joy!

Prayer: Father, Son, and Spirit, open the hearts of those who are seeking but not finding the greatest story ever told.

READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9; Psalm 16:11; Psalm 43:3-4; Psalm 51:1-12.

1. What moments or memories from all your years playing golf have brought you great joy? Recall one or two and discuss.

2. After reading these texts, what do the Psalmist and Peter teach us about joy?

3. Application: Focusing on Psalm 51, answer the question: What does David pray for that joy might be restored?
