

# Everlasting Joy and Peace

By Abigail Rayn



*You will live in joy and peace.  
The mountains and hills will burst into song,  
and the trees of the field will clap their hands!  
Where once there were thorns, cypress trees will grow.  
Where nettles grew, myrtles will sprout up.  
These events will bring great honor to the Lord's name;  
they will be an everlasting sign of his power and love.” Isaiah 55:12-13 NLT*

When we are going through difficulty it is hard to imagine better days. But God promises us in Isaiah that when we seek Him, He will sustain us and bless us. He will meet all our needs. But how often do we try to do things in our own strength? We don't realize the barren days and rocky paths are just what God will use in our lives to show us our need for Him. He promises beautiful cypress trees will grow where there were painful thorns. Cypress in ancient Israel represented healing and eternal life. Nettles can cause a painful burning and stinging. Myrtles are a beautiful flowering plant, a symbol of beauty and love, it releases a pleasant fragrance when crushed. What a beautiful picture of how God will take the pain and replace it with life giving beauty.

Someone I know has endured many years of challenges and setbacks. It has been a long hard uphill road. There have been days when the cupboards were empty and the bills insurmountable. Yet God has provided in amazing ways and His Glory prevails as she leans on Him and His strength. God does not promise us great riches or monetary wealth but what He provides is much greater. Joy and peace are priceless. Gaze upon His creation to see how magnificently it declares His majesty. Though to see such beauty despite hardship requires a faith that prevails. Attribute the rocky path to His sovereignty, believe that he knows what's best. Faith is the assurance of things not seen. Know that He has an amazing plan and is at work in even the smallest of details.

My friend never imagined that God would provide her with a home atop a mountain in the beautiful Arizona dessert to savor His goodness and mercy. She lives every day surrounded in a portrait of His provision, His bountiful blessings, His majesty and His glory. Where do you trust in the presence of God to see the goodness and fragrance of God in your life?