

JOY IN AN ANGST RIDDEN LIFE.

Psalm 16.11:

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Modern life has become so joyless and more and more young men and women in the corporate circuit are slowly becoming angst ridden. The word *angst* was introduced into English from Danish *angst* via existentialist [Søren Kierkegaard](#). It is used in English to describe an intense feeling of apprehension, anxiety or inner turmoil.

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angst>)

But actually Kierkegaard used this word in a different sense than how we use today. Today it means frustration, anxiety , disinterestedness in life all rolled into one.

I was lately speaking to my friend who's into corporate job for some years now. I can really see the strain. I have seen a big strain on many of my young friends who are in this corporate band wagon especially IT companies. Oppression, politics, back biting, betrayal, shifting of blame, taking credit for somebody else's work is all there in every profession, so why should corporate work culture be any different?

I may be wrong also, but what my idea about the whole thing is that somehow the reward of seeing the fruit of their work concretely is missing when you keep working virtually. The majority of their time is spent on gazing the blinking screen and it consumes all their energy and labour. But does the computer thank or smile? The personal work is fed into an impersonal computer. Probably that's why the angst is more pronounced there.

Apart from the pay package a teacher rejoices when her students start studying well. There was a guy who was very poor in English, but for a month he came regularly after class hours to me and I coached him. There was a competitive exam

today and of 38 students he has scored the highest. I was too shocked and too happy.

A doctor is so happy to see his almost dead patient come alive, walk, talk and laugh.

A farmer rejoiced when he harvests the crop he's sown in tears.

A missionary/evangelist/pastor rejoices to see lost souls coming home to the Father, to build the Kingdom of God and to see the sheep multiply.

A business person is gladdened by positive dividends.

A potter loves to see the work of his hands, the beautiful pots and pans.

A builder rejoices at the great monuments he built.

An electrical engineer exults to see a new house erupt in light.

But when you can't see such palpable results one may become frustrated. Probably this adds up to the angst and causes ennui, frustration. That is why they tend to fill their lives with dangerous pastimes.

But is it as hopeless as it looks? I don't think so. The joy of a teacher, doctor, engineer can be short lived too. But when we connect our lives with the real source of joy, then even in such impersonal working environments we can be joyful.

Though I speak quite despairingly of computers and their impersonality, it can be used at the same time to glorify God.

Anyone working in the vineyard, through whatever medium, will have the joy and peace that passes all understanding.

So the secret is to know God's purpose in keeping you in a certain profession look for God's special calling for you in that and plunge into it.

If you're a graphic designer think of using animation as a means to serve God. If you're a content person, think of creative ways of spreading the Good News.

For two months now I've been joyful as I haven't been for many years. The reason is, I started writing this letter every day. I knew God prepared my language skills

professionally for this. But only when I obeyed joy started to seep in my heart. It started strengthening me first, comforting me first, before accelerating to all the parts of the world.

In my stats list I see readers from U.S, Russia, Poland, Germany, Spain, U.K and sometimes I am stumped. But it is God's doing, I have to keep on at it.

So wherever you are, whoever you are and whatever job you are at. Turn your eyes to God and ask Him the portion He has for you to build in the Kingdom. This will break your angst and fill your life with joy that comes from the right hand of God.

God bless.