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MOUNTAIN RAMBLIN'

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A Four Million Dollar Piece of Evidence for God's Existence by Kyle Butt, M.A.

A ten-pound, four million dollar technological wonder connected to the shoulder of Claudia Mitchell makes her the first "bionic" woman in the world. After losing her left arm, Mitchell received a prosthetic limb specially designed to work using nerve impulses from her body (Davis, 2006).



On September 14, 2006, Mitchell unveiled the new arm in a Washington, D.C. news conference. Mitchell's doctor, Todd Kuiken, head of neural engineering at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, has done some amazing things to make this seemingly futuristic bionic arm a reality. Kuiken and his team were able to move nerves into Mitchell's chest, disconnect those nerves from actual muscles, and connect them to sensors in the bionic arm, so that "six muscles in Mitchell's chest now move six motors in the bionic arm" (2006).

New bionic technology such as that connected to Mitchell is taking prosthetics to new heights. With Mitchell's new

arm she can perform everyday tasks such as "folding a pair of pants without first stretching them on a flat surface," and she can "open a spaghetti jar and hold it up at an angle and use a spoon to empty it out" (2006). Yet, for all that can be done with the advanced machinery, Kuiken still calls the arm "clumsy," noting that the technology needs more precision and sensitivity (2006).

When considering Kuiken's statement about the "clumsy" bionic arm, one is forced to consider that the arm is clumsy when compared to an actual human arm. But such an idea carries with it a profound implication. If humans have spent millions of dollars and thousands of hours, using the most advanced technology available, to produce a "clumsy" functioning prosthetic limb, then the human arm that outperforms the bionic one must have been designed and engineered by a higher intelligence than that possessed by the engineers of the bionclimb. An honest observer cannot refute such a conclusion. A "clumsy" four million dollar bionic arm is yet another reminder that an Intelligent Designer exists, and that the human body designed by Him is "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). Copyright © 2006 Apologetics Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

Joy Is Found In Freedom by Wayne Burger

The word “happiness” comes from the root word “hap” which means something that occurs because of chance. Therefore, happiness depends upon chance. Being rooted in chance, it cannot bring true, long-lasting satisfaction. Joy, on the other hand, does not depend upon chance. Joy is a deep satisfaction that one has even when circumstances in one’s life may be changing, even from bad to worse. That is why throughout the Bible God speaks of His people as having joy, not happiness (John 15:11). Joy brings a deep satisfaction that will not be removed by circumstances that change by chance. In this article we want to look at one metaphor in Psalm 126 that illustrates joy. But first, notice that the psalmist uses the word “joy” or a form of “joy” three times in six verses.

The setting for the psalm is that the citizens of Zion (Jerusalem) had been held captive and then set free. As the psalmist writes about that release, he describes their joy with three metaphors. This captivity seems to have been when Sennacherib, king of Assyria, besieged Jerusalem during the reign of King Hezekiah (II Kings 18-19; II Chronicles 32). After the city had been shut-up for a long period of time, “it happened that night that the angel of the LORD went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians” (II Kings 19:35).

When the citizens of Jerusalem realized that they had been set free they said, “We were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with joyful shouting” (Psalm 126:1-2). It was “a dream come true.” They couldn’t believe it! Because they gained freedom, their lives were filled with laughter and their tongue shouted with joy.



Joy was found in freedom. This was not just happiness because of momentary circumstances. This was joy because God had worked in their lives. If joy can be found when God brings physical freedom, think how much greater joy can come from spiritual freedom. Jesus said, “so if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36). One becomes unhappy because one becomes enslaved to sin (John 8:34). Joy comes when freedom comes and freedom comes when truth comes. Jesus said, “you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32). When Jesus said that we can know the truth and that truth would set us free, He assured us that we can have joy. Jesus gives freedom from guilt because His blood washes away our sins (I John 2:1-2; Acts 22:16). When guilt leaves, joy comes. When Jesus sets us free it opens the door so that other joys can enter.

The inspired apostle Paul wrote, “it was for freedom that Christ set us free” (Galatians 5:1). The freedom that Jesus offers is not a freedom to do as we please, but a freedom to serve others, and that brings joy. Paul wrote, “we were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13). Do you want joy in your life? Become free from the guilt of sin and begin to serve others. The citizens of Jerusalem were held in physical bondage to Assyria. Today, everyone is held in bondage to some one or some thing. Paul wrote, “do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness” (Romans 6:16-18). Being a slave of righteousness rather than a slave of sin is the key to joy. Who are you serving? How you answer that question will reveal whether or not you have joy.