

## The Proofs Of Ebenezer Scrooges's Christian Joy In Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (1843)

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### Abstract

The author of this article takes the title The Proofs Of Ebenezer Scrooge's Christian Joy in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* (1843). This article is about proofs of Christian Joy which found in Charles Dickens as one of main characters in the novella *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. The purpose of writing this article is to show proofs of the Christian joy of Christianity felt by Ebenezer Scrooge in the novella *A Christmas Carol*. The research method used in this study is descriptive qualitative. The topic of Christian Joy is chosen because it is important to find out the proofs of Christian Joy to Ebenezer Scrooge so that the readers can learn good lesson about how to understand about Christian Joy behaviour in life. In the modern era recently, most people will only concern about their mental health issue with all its gloom and joylessness.

**Keyword:** Joy

### INTRODUCTION

Christianity is the biggest adherent religion in this world estimated based on the latest research survey will be projected at about 2,6 billion people (Zurlo, 2022). As a very super massive religion with gigantic numerous all around the world, it undoubtedly will affect much more part of this world. It is so obvious that as the biggest religion, Christianity always spreads its wings based on its basic Christian values. However, as a 2000-year-old spiritual teaching, not all Christians live according to Christian Joy as its main value, some are good Christian, some are bad Christian, some are in between.

Joy is essential for human survival. The absence of this emotional nuance renders us powerless in the face of life's many sufferings. The joy the author of this thesis refers to is an emotion that allows those who experience it to experience a sense of inner bliss, untouched by the suffering of the external world. This is in line with what Susan Ellen said in her psychology dissertation which defines joy as a state of consciousness in which one experiences a sense of wholeness (Ellen, 2003).

The joy that the thesis writer discusses in this work is not joy in general but focuses on the unique joy within Christianity values. The joy of Christianity here is the feeling of joy that arises within humans as a result of a proper and correct relationship with God The Most Holy Trinity through His Word which was incarnated as a human being named the Lord Jesus Christ. This is in line with what Paul Murray said in his journal where he emphasized that Christian Joy is a sharing with the mysterious Joy of God (Murray, 2001).

### METHOD

This chapter describes the procedures of the thesis writer in analyzing this thesis. Those include Research Design, Search of Data, Techniques in Data Collection, and Techniques in Data Analysis.

#### A. Research Design

In this article, the journal article writer uses the method of qualitative, descriptive, and literary research. The literary study that has been used by the writer is descriptive qualitative. Qualitative descriptive studies, as known as 'exploratory studies' and 'qualitative description approaches', are new categorically in the world of qualitative research. The design of qualitative descriptive studies has a meaning as a means to define aspects of qualitative research that describe phenomena rather than explain them in detail. Qualitative descriptive also provides a comprehensive summary of events and has a design, such as, journalistic, with the purpose to answer the questions who, what, where and how. By using a qualitative method, certain concepts and written data are analysed to answer the question in this article. Written through description, online and offline scripts are used to explain correlations between *A Christmas Carol* and Christian Joy Value Theory. Online and offline sources are derived from book and journals to comprehend shown matters clearly and fully.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. The Proofs of The Ebenezer Scrooge's Joy in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

Regarding the characteristics of Christian Joy, Ebenezer Scrooge experiences such joy too. It is woven by various data involved in *A Christmas Carol*. The data are shown as follows all the contexts and analyses regarding the Christian Joy. The following data are categorized and analysed through the characteristics of Stability of the Inner Life, Moral and Spiritual Transformation, and Communal and Outward Expression.

#### 1. Stability of the Inner Life

The first proof of stability of the inner life from Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is the existence of an action that point to promises for being consistent and stable in the near future. This action happens on the morning of Christmas. The day after the third visitation of the Christmas Spirit. This event occurred when Ebenezer Scrooge woke up from his night vision which took place in his own bedroom. This can be seen from the quote below:

*"I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future!" Scrooge repeated, as he scrambled out of bed.*" (Dickens,1843:70)

The stability that Ebenezer Scrooge exhibits, as depicted above, is a form of spiritual orientation that emerges as a reaction to external reality, characterized by a strong ability to endure suffering, uncertainty, and emotional struggle, while simultaneously maintaining hope and meaning. The promise to maintain stability in the future is the entry point for many acts of love and compassion that old Ebenezer Scrooge tries to maintain in true stability and is truly capable as we see in the quote above. What is meant by Ebenezer Scrooge through the promise to live Christmas with a happy heart and liven up and cheer up other people's Christmas brings readers to a picture of the stability of inner life which is projected out to reach other people in the farthest radius.

The second proof of stability of inner life was experienced by Ebenezer Scrooge occurred at the house of Ebenezer Scrooge's nephew, Fred, on Christmas Eve. This confirms what Vole said that joy usually goes beyond one's self and radiates to reach others (Volf,2015). This can be seen from the quotes below:

*"He was so fluttered and so glowing with his good intentions, that his broken voice would scarcely answer to his call."* (Dickens,1843:71)

Charles Dickens takes his readers deep into the stability of inner world of Ebenezer Scrooge to emphasize that the stability of character's lifestyle changes are not superficial, fake, external changes but are rooted in a pure and sincere heart to improve and amend oneself. Quite consistently Dickens emphasizes the central role of the renewed human inner life stability, which in turn controls the transformation of the entire physical aspect of the human being for goodness sake. This is also the emphasis of Dallas Willard who emphasized that joy is born from the stability of an inner life that has been renewed and reordered towards goodness (Willard, 2002).

The third proof of stability of inner life felt by Ebenezer Scrooge happened in his own house, specifically in the dressing room, the day after the third spirit visit, which was Christmas. In line with what N.T. Wright said that joy plays an important role in the formation of the character of Christians (Wright, 2010). As can be seen from the quotes below:

*"His hands were busy with his garments all this time."* (Dickens,1843:71)

The act of joyfully examining clothes is a natural transformation for Ebenezer. A change that occurs as a result of inner renewal that ultimately leads Ebenezer Scrooge to become a more generous, compassionate, and responsible person for the needs of others. stability of inner life felt by Ebenezer Scrooge is not only manifested in the stability of his words but also in the stability of his body movements which give the impression that this stability of inner life spreads throughout the entire personal entity named Ebenezer Scrooge. Ebenezer experiences a balance between the stability of inner joy and the stability of the manifestation of this joy in bodily gestures that clearly demonstrate this joy to the outside world. Thus, it can be said that there is a vital Christian character formation in old Ebenezer Scrooge.

The fourth proof of the stability of Ebenezer Scrooge's inner life occurs when he is in a vision of the misery of society one day with the Spirit of the second Christmas. The incident occurred one night before Christmas in the human world. As we can see in the quote below:

*"I shall not leave its lesson"*. (Dickens,1843:77)

The words used by Ebenezer Scrooge suggest to the thesis writer a vision of the promise of future stability. His words about never leaving this lesson illustrate the process of stability in terms of words and agreements. In this case, Ebenezer seems to demonstrate a clear outcome of the phase of stability experienced in his inner world; something still in the shadows but within reach. Ebenezer counters the ugliness of the negative version of his past self with a promise of stable change in the future. Within the framework of change resulting from radical and deep repentance.

The fifth proof of Ebenezer Scrooge's inner stability occurs one night in the cemetery. There, Ebenezer is shown his fate if he does not repent by the Spirit of Christmas, which has not yet arrived. As can be seen in the quote below:

*"I will not be the man I must have been."* (Dickens,1843:84)

In the quote above, it is clear that a realm that Ebenezer Scrooge can point to concerns an eschatological vision of the stability of repentance as a clear output of the stability of a systematic and orderly inner repentance. All the past glories which old Ebenezer Scrooge had regarded as greatness, now before the dreadful apparition of the Spirit of Christmas yet to come seemed a vanity and a trifle of the vain world of mortals.

#### 2. Moral and Spiritual Transformation

The first proof of Ebenezer's moral and spiritual transformation occurred in the area around the window of Ebenezer Scrooge's house on Christmas morning. It's not far from what N.T. Wright said that joy binds a strong unity between human decisions and actions (Nitrite, 2010). As seen below:

*"I am as light as a feather"* (Dickens, 1843:71)

Moral changes and spiritual transformation in Ebenezer Scrooge can be seen in showing clear indications of inner renewal changes that reshape Ebenezer Scrooge's personal values, character and ethical behavior in the aspects of speech and physical movements of old Ebenezer Scrooge. The first proof of Ebenezer's moral and spiritual transformation can be observed in the many changes in the pattern of vocabulary and intonation usage as well as the use of sentence forms where Ebenezer begins to use many words with positive nuances of joy which contain a great effect of massive excitement. The unity between the decision to use more positive words and the decision to say them is well woven into many of the quotes below.

The second proof of Ebenezer Scrooge's moral and spiritual transformation occurred the day after the third spirit visit ended in Ebenezer's own house, probably in his sleeping area, which was Christmas Day. This moment is clearly revealed in the quote below.

*"It's all right, it's all true, it all happened. Ha!"* (Dickens, 1843:71)

The process of inner renewal experienced by Scrooge is a phase of moral and spiritual transformation where the process of changing personal values and shifting ethical behavior from selfish and self-centered actions to a person full of love, generosity and compassion for many others occurs in Ebenezer Scrooge, especially in the aspect of physical behavior and the phase of his speech. The second proof of Ebenezer Scrooge's moral and spiritual transformation can be seen from how Ebenezer Scrooge gives meaning with a strong nuance of joy to all the powerful apparitions he experienced in his past.

The third proof of Ebenezer Scrooge's moral and spiritual transformation occurred in Ebenezer Scrooge's own house on the morning after the third spirit visitation, right on Christmas Day. As we can see in the quote below:

*"I am quite a baby."* (Dickens, 1843:72)

The radical transformation that directly results from the renewal of Ebenezer Scrooge's inner world is clearly evident in the quote above. Ebenezer seems to be trying to atone for his past corrupt behavior like a baby with all the purity that the baby has, to redeem crime a part of his deeply held personal values before. The third proof of Ebenezer Scrooge's moral and spiritual transformation This can be seen in the kind of meaning that old Ebenezer gives to a series of experiences with spirit visions. Previously, Ebenezer often considered the process of meeting with spirit beings to be nonsense, but now he is transformed into a man who fully believes in the existence of spirit beings.

The fourth proof of Ebenezer Scrooge's moral and spiritual transformation occurs in his own home the morning after the Third Spirit's visitation of the still-unexpected Christmas. As can be seen from the following excerpts:

*"It's Christmas Day! said Scrooge to himself. I haven't missed it."* (Dickens, 1843:72).

The above quote shows the unique process of moral and spiritual transformation that Ebenezer Scrooge amazingly experienced. It is also indicating a radical change that permeates the entire inner and external world of the new man Ebenezer. It becomes evident that the joy which is rooted in true repentance spreads like fire, burning the side of Ebenezer's old man's arrogance and cruelty until it is destroyed without any stain remaining. This fire of joy destroyed the shell of egoism that Ebenezer had maintained so tenaciously and then threw him into a much warmer world of social interaction. As N.T. Wright stated earlier, joy encourages social involvement (Wright, 2010).

The fifth proof of Ebenezer Scrooge's moral and spiritual transformation occurs in his own home the morning after the Third Spirit's visitation of the still-unexpected Christmas. The event is set the morning after a frightening visit from the spirits and the beginning of the joys of Christmas. As can be seen from the following excerpts:

*"The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me."* (Dickens, 1843:70)

From the above quotation, the thesis writer studies that Ebenezer experiences joy because the idea of that sentences is related to the concept of joy because as it is stated by McGrath that joy is moral and spiritual transformation, meaning so that it is not easily shaken by external circumstances. Alister McGrath explains that Christian Joy is grounded in theological transformation of moral and spiritual, allowing it to endure even in situations of suffering or uncertainty (McGrath, 2013). As it is shown in the novel, that Scrooge after being enlightened by the presence of ghosts he becomes convinced that he will live in God's way of life even in many different situations in today and future. This epiphany that he sees from the spirits make him feel sure that there is a life after this worldly life.

### **3. Communal and outward Expression**

The first proof of communal and outward expression is evident from a series of events that began from the moment when he went to church, and walked about the streets, and watched the people hurrying to and for. As can be seen from the quote below.

*"A merrier Christmas, Bob"* (Dickens, 1843:76)

The first proof of communal and outward expression can be seen from the way how he lives in social scene. The moral and spiritual transformation that occurs within Ebenezer Scrooge renews his perspective on the crowd. The hustle and bustle of society which he previously hated now gives Ebenezer his own happiness and enjoyment. Ebenezer seems to want to atone for his evil view of the hustle and bustle of society in the past.

The second proof of old Ebenezer Scrooge's communal and outward expression after the appearance of the three spiritual beings and the spirit of Jacob Marley occurs after the terrifying appearance of the Third Spirit. This incident occurred in his own home on the morning of Christmas Day, as shown in the excerpt below.

*"He looked so irresistibly pleasant!"* (Dickens, 1843:73)

Words like irresistibly pleasant show a nuance of drastic change from the communal and outward expression aspects which, if viewed from the physical appearance phase of Ebenezer Scrooge before his encounter with the Spirits from a different natural dimension and a dimension of experience that is so different from the present physical world, there is a very drastic change. Visually, the old Ebenezer before his encounter with the spiritual beings is so identical with the image of being cold, stiff and cruel to other humans but now becomes so pleasant in the sense that his physical appearance is able to present a very positive image to other humans.

The third proof of communal and outward expression that occurs in the story of the Christmas Carol is an event that occurred on Christmas morning, namely the day after the visit of the Third Spirit in the area near his house as written in the quote below.

*"I'll give you a shilling".* (Dickens,1843:72)

As can be observed, there is a pattern of giving action from the side of old Ebenezer Scrooge who has experienced renewal both inwardly and the outward expression of this renewal is the expression of giving. The previous action was a hatred that Old Ebenezer wanted to do as an intersection with the sensitivity of the spiritual world that is beyond the reach of sensory reasoning that was previously used to reason how much wealth can be collected from the results of accumulating wealth.

The fourth proof of communal and outward expression experienced by Old Ebenezer is an event that occurred the day after the visit of the Third Spirit in his own home on Christmas morning as can be seen from the quote below.

*"his might of wonder".* (Dickens, 1843:72)

The amazement felt flows throughout the entire personal entity of Ebenezer Scrooge so that it is as if the miracle of contact with the spiritual world is like a blanket of magic that covers and protects the old Ebenezer Scrooge's personal self from the version of arrogance that previously surrounded his fragile self-due to the shackles of worldly greed and all the tricks of Satan that almost destroyed the good seeds from within him. The proof that this transforming miracle is poured out in the expression of how Ebenezer Scrooge's wonder extends to the kind of courage that will be displayed later in the meaning of the subsequent Christmas celebrations that he will participate in and live.

The fifth proof of communal and outward expression that Ebenezer Scrooge faced was the event that he faced the day after the most frightening visit from the Third Spirit that took place in his own house right on Christmas Day as shown in the quote below.

*"Oh, glorious, glorious!"* (Dickens,1843:72)

Ebenezer seemed to experience a shift in consciousness, recognizing that what he had just experienced was a renewal that glorified him both internally and externally. From this perspective, the thesis writer observed a pattern of shifting from disgust to expressions rooted in a black heart filled with greed for wealth and worldly vanities. The deeper the repentance experienced by old Ebenezer Scrooge as a desire towards good internal world change and ennobling others who in a certain sense are contaminated by the good energy of constructive utterances from the ennobled mouth of old Ebenezer Scrooge.

## CONCLUSION

### A. Conclusion

The proofs of Ebenezer Scrooge's joy are strongly evident in Charles Dickens's work entitled *A Christmas Carol*. This can be observed from the numerous quotations that refer directly or indirectly to the inner nuances of joy in question. This joy also presents itself in verbal manifestations, the author's explanations, and Ebenezer Scrooge's body gestures.

There are three main proofs for the joy that Old Ebenezer Scrooge feels. The first and most important proof is his encounter with a Spirit from the future. This is a terrifying type of Spirit that shows Ebenezer a future where if he doesn't repent, he will die and his grave will be abandoned. Ebenezer is fortunately given the opportunity to repent and improve his life to avoid this terrible future. The second proof is his encounter with the Spirit of Christmas Past, which brings Ebenezer back to the people who once made him so happy in his past. The third proof is his encounter with the Spirit of Christmas Present, which brings Ebenezer to his nephew Fred's dinner party, where Ebenezer is immersed in the joy of playing a Christmas Eve game there.

Three proofs occurred within Ebenezer after his inner being encountered with a torrent of joy. The first proof was a complete change in Ebenezer Scrooge's perspective, from a Christmas hater to a Christmas lover. The second proof was a transformation from a loner imprisoned in his own selfish world to a friendly person open to social interaction with others. The third proof was a transformation from a merciless person to a person full of compassion and generosity.

True repentance is the path for humans to rediscover their best selves.

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