

JOY IS HERE

God is with Us Series

Agape Life Church
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Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and **the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.** Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, **I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.** For there is born **to you this day** in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:8-11

Great Joy is Here

"Christmas is a delightful disruption of the way things normally go."
~Dean Willimon

The phrase "delightful disruption" certainly captures the spirit of Luke 2. One moment you're tending the sheep in the middle of the night, the next you're being scared out of your wits by an angelic choir. "For there is born **to you this day** in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." As we look at the subject of Christmas joy, all we need is found in this single verse.

We cannot make ourselves joyful, joy cannot be purchased or arranged. Joy is what God gives us in His presence it cannot be worked up like a formula, **but is a direct result of His personal presence in our lives.**

There's something missing in the lives of so many of God's people, and it's called JOY. It's God's desire that we would have not just a little joy, **but fullness of joy, and rivers of pleasure.** (Psalm. 36:7-8)

To discover greater joy we must abandon the search for it and go **looking instead for the One who is Himself Joy.**

Without having seen Him, you love Him; though you do not [even] now see Him, you believe in Him and exult and thrill with inexpressible and glorious (triumphant, heavenly) joy. [At the same time] you receive the result (outcome, consummation) of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:8-9

Joy is a divine dimension of living that is not limited by circumstances. The Hebrew word means, to leap or spin around with pleasure. In the New Testament the word refers to **gladness, bliss and celebration.**

Core Point: Capturing the moments of supernatural joy brings the heavenly into our earthly lives. The work of God is so amazing the question is; are we living in the power of triumphant joy by all He has done?

The Overcoming Power of His Overflowing Joy

The Bible mentions "joy" or "rejoicing" 330 times.

Joy is a constant throughout Scripture as a profound, compelling **quality of life that transcends the events and difficulties of life.** Joy is a **Divine dimension** of life for God's children.

*For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace **and joy in the Holy Spirit.*** Romans 14:17

At the Root of Joy is a **state of** _____.

The word *amazed* occurs 31 times in the Gospels, usually describing the response of crowds to the Lord Jesus and supernatural things He did.

Webster's: To bewilder, perplex - **to fill with wonder:** astound -to show or cause astonishment. (Luke 2:10-16)

*And the disciples were **filled with joy** and with the Holy Spirit.* Acts 13:52

Joy is a constant throughout Scripture as a profound, compelling **quality of life that transcends the events and difficulties which may try God's people.**

The joy that comes from God is a **pathway we learn to walk** in as the joy of the Lord grows in our lives as a fruit of the Spirit.

The triumphant place of victory we find, by living in the Divine dimension of joy, is _____ for our **lives.**

Joy is God's spiritual oil for our lives.

*To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, **The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;** That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.* Isaiah 61:3

Joy is a spiritual conduit to receive the promises of God.

*Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For Yah, the Lord, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation. **Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*** Isaiah 12:2-3

People seem to be continually striving trying find lasting joy. Finding the road of true joy is the inheritance of followers of Christ. It is not simply an emotion or attitude; **it is a Person, our source of power for fulfillment,** and provides the energy and motivation to walk in the full will of God!

Core Statement: The joy of the Lord is my constant companion on my journey with Christ! In the the midst of any difficulty or heartache, Joy is always with me! I have the presence of the Messiah with me and He brings joy to all things!