

## **Topic: THE JOY**

Text: "The joy of the Lord is your strength."—Nehemiah 8:12

### **Background:**

Israel still in captivity but the wall has been rebuilt.

### **Illustration:**

A wealthy father gives a Bible to his son to celebrate his High School graduation and in it he puts a check of the exact amount for a sports car he and the son had test drove in preparation for the graduation, the son fell out with the father because he expected a car and not a Bible. Didn't talk to his father from that time on and the father dies, when he returned home he opened the Bible to find out that enclosed was a check for the exact amount for the sports car so much wanted.

### **Lesson:**

True joy comes from the Word of God and when we seek first the Kingdom God will add all the other things we need in life.

### **Introduction:**

Where do people look for enjoyment and satisfaction in life today or for that matter since the fall? 1 John 2:15-17

- The lust of the eyes
- The lust of the flesh
- The pride of life

*Anything in this world that is not God can rob your heart of the love of God. Anything that is not God can draw your heart away from God. If you don't have it, it can fill you with passion to get it. If you get it, it can fill you with pride that you've got it.*

*But against the pride of life the apostle says, "What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as though it were not a gift . . . Let him who boasts boast in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 4:7; 1:31). So let there be no boasting in possessions. They are all gods.*

*And against the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes the psalmist says, "Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is nothing upon earth that I desire besides thee." Therefore let us desire nothing but God. Possess nothing but God; pursue nothing but God. John Piper*

Besides the fact that these earthly things are ephemeral, as attractive as the worldly pleasures are they cannot satisfy an undying nature, as we now have the eternal Spirit of God living in us no earthly pleasures be it common pleasures or sinful pleasures can satisfy the child of God.

As sons and daughters of God we do not need to search for Joy, we have Joy through the shed blood of our Lord Jesus.

The Joy we now have is the purest of Joy, it is refined and utterly satisfying and no worldly pleasures can satisfy.

Let us take a closer look at this Joy. For the next coming 4 weeks we will be considering four aspects about this Joy. (Where it comes from, what it does, how it is seen and how it is applied)?

## **I. WHERE DOES TRUE JOY COME FROM?**

### **A) JOY COMES FROM THE LOVE OF GOD**

Joy comes from God and a mature believer rejoices mainly in God himself who is a personal God.

Meditate for a moment of the attributes and characteristics of God they are a wellspring of Joy for the spiritual and thoughtful follower.

- God is Almighty, All Powerful, and Sovereign Lord- that is our protection!
- God is All Knowing and All Wise- that is our guidance!
- God is total Reliable (Immutable) and Faithful- that is our solid foundation!
- God is Loving, Merciful, Kind and Gracious- that is our salvation!

God is God and that is the source of our Joy. Hallelujah!

Nothing in this world and no false gods can bring joy to a regenerate believer, but everything in the character of God brings both purification and delight.

Look what the Lord has done! Especially through the revelation of Jesus we now know and understand that God is our Father, Friend and Helper.

*I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Exodus 6:7*

*For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.[g] And by him we cry, "Abba,[h] Father." 16The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8:15-17*

The result of our understanding of this truth to rejoice with glad and sincere hearts like David danced before the ark of the Lord. We belong to God and he belongs to us, he has loved us with an everlasting love, his loving-kindness is better than life.

## **B) JOY COMES FROM A LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

It is incredible that our God is a personal God and that He is a knowable God. He wants us to draw near to Him (Draw me close to you, and Draw me nearer Blessed Lord, Nearer my God to thee)

As we live close to God we will have a full revelation of Him, a deeper sense of being reconciled to Him, of acceptance as his adopted children.

Aren't you glad that He took our sins, no longer are we estranged, no longer do we provoke God, in Christ God delights in us. We can now go to him with every tear, every sorrow, every pain, and every challenge in life. Why?

Because God is Love and He loves us so much.

God's love towards us is a marvel. God 's love for us is a miracle!

Listen to the words of Charles H Spurgeon,

*“For God to pity me I can understand, for God to condescend to have mercy upon me I can comprehend; but for him to love me, for the pure to love a sinner, for the infinitely great to love a worm, is matchless, a miracle of miracles!”*

His love brings real comfort to us and further more His divine love has brought us into actual relationship with him we are members of God's family now.

We are sons of God and joint heirs with Christ and these truths are beyond words. God is our DADDY, our PAPPA there is incredible intimacy in this relationship full of love, joy and peace for we have not received a spirit of bondage to fear, but we have received the spirit of freedom and joy in Christ Jesus. “My God, my Father.”

Do you live in assurance that you have been reconciled, that God loves you, and that you are a child of the Most High God?

You should and if you don't you are the only one to blame God's provision has been superabundant.

Do you live under a sense of His forgiveness and perfect reconciliation with joy unspeakable and full of glory? Amen! But saints this is not all!

How deep is our joy we now have an actual relationship and we live in actual fellowship with God. We walk and talk with the Lord!

Make it your habit of communion to abide in him daily, weekly, monthly, yearly for eternity.

### **C) JOY COMES FROM AN ASSURED FUTURE**

His love abides and remains unchanged we live in total satisfaction in God's eternal hands and his immutable love. It doesn't matter how positive we are about the past and the present if we live in fear of the future then our joy is shallow and not from God.

God will complete the work he has started in us.

*"...Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Phil.1: 6*

Life will not be smooth sailing but God will complete the work. We value the Gospel not only for what was accomplished 2000 years ago but for also what it accomplishes in the future.

*"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand." John 10:28*

## **D) JOY COMES FROM SERVING GOD**

Another form of “the joy of the Lord” is the honour the opportunity to serve Him.

To show mercy, to speak the oracles of God, to implement the purposes of God with diligence, to encourage others to grow, to tell others about Christ, to give towards the work of God, to help others, to pray for others, to offer our homes, to care for others and to pray for healing, to lead God’s sheep, to trust the Lord, to edify others, to work miracles, to discern and to have wisdom, to have a strong loving marriage, to remain single and serve the Lord.

We serve the Lord using the gifts and skills He has given us working within our passions and glad to be who God made us.

One cannot be with a strong God without gaining His strength.

### **Conclusion:**

Knowledge of the Word of God can create the conditions for dramatic spiritual renewal. When Ezra read the Law to the assembled congregation, the people were moved to tears. Even to the present, instruction in the Word of God has frequently transformed lives, led to personal salvation, brought comfort and joy, produced tears of conviction, and reawakened commitment to God’s purpose.

This Joy that I have the world didn’t give it to me

This Joy that I have I want the whole world to know about it

This Joy that I have the world can’t get it from me

II. What does Joy do?

III. How is Joy seen?

IV. How can we apply joy and strength in our lives today?

**References:**

Charles H Spurgeon

John Piper

Disciples Notes (QuickVerse)

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