

# Rejoicing and Joy in the Lord

## Introduction

### 1. As God's children we should be very happy!

Psalms 35:9 And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD; It shall rejoice in His salvation.

#### A. Rejoicing in the Lord is a commandment for us.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always,

#### B. Joy and happiness is promised to God's people.

Psalms 132:16 I will also clothe her priests with salvation, And her saints shall shout aloud for joy.

### 2. This morning I want to begin this new year by showing us that we can be a more joyous and happy person as we rejoice in all the spiritual blessings that we have in Christ.

## Various Kinds of Joy

### 1. Let us first consider the joy that is experienced by the wicked.

#### A. It is derived from foolish things.

Proverbs 15:21 Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment, But a man of understanding walks uprightly.

- 1) **For example, to obtain a thrill by driving a car down a road at 120 miles per hour is sheer folly.**
- 2) **The wicked rejoice in these kind of quick thrills.**

**B. The joy of the wicked is short-lived.**

Job 20:5 That the triumphing of the wicked is short, And the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment?

- 1) **One can enjoy the pleasures of sin only for a season.**  
**Hebrews 11:24-26**

**C. The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes impresses upon our minds the vanity of seeking happiness from earthly things.**  
**Ecclesiastes 2:10-11; 11:8**

**D. The joy of the wicked should be turned to mourning.**

James 4:8-9 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. **Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.** Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

**2. Consider the joy experienced by the righteous.**

**A. It is a joy inexpressible and full of glory.**

1 Peter 1:8-9 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice **with joy inexpressible and full of glory,** receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

- 1) **One must experience it to know it.**
- 2) **To describe to someone else the joy which we experience is very difficult.**

**B. This joy is increased in the meek and lowly.**

Isaiah 29:19 The humble also shall increase their joy in the LORD, And the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel.

**C. This joy of the righteous is constant – not short lived.**

2 Corinthians 6:10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

- 1) **Trials, persecutions, or hardships do not lesson the joy the Christian has.**
- 2) **As a matter of fact, they can increase their joy.**  
**Matthew 5:11-12**

**D. The joy of the saints is made full by:**

- 1) **Abiding in Christ**  
**John 15:10-11**
- 2) **The love that we have for our fellow Christians.**  
**2 Timothy 1:4**
- 3) **Children who walk in the truth.**

3 John 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Proverbs 23:24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him.

- a) **Any who are abiding in the faith, whether they be family or otherwise, bring happiness and joy to all their fellow Christians!**

## What Reasons Do I Have for Rejoicing?

**1. There are several reasons for the Christian to rejoice. Let's look at some specific verses which state the reasons for rejoicing.**

**A. Because of our temporal blessings.**

Joel 2:23-24 Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you— The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month. The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.

**B. That our names are written in heaven!**

Luke 10:20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

**C. For salvation in Jesus Christ.**

**1 Peter 1:3-9**

**D. For the success of the gospel.**

Acts 15:3 So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren.

## **What Makes Us Rejoice and Full of Joy?**

### **1. Christians must understand the source and power that brings happiness to us.**

#### **A. God gives us great joy – we rejoice in God through Christ.**

Psalms 4:7-8 You have put gladness in my heart, More than in the season that their grain and wine increased. I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Romans 5:11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

#### **B. The Word of God brings great joy to the Christian.**

Jeremiah 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

John 17:13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

- 1) To know and understand the Word of God brings great rejoicing in our hearts.**
- 2) This is a blessing, a great treasure, that we experience nearly every time we study the Word.**

#### **C. The benefits of prayer also brings joy!**

John 16:24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

- 1) By the Word of God and prayer, we find happiness.**

## **There Is a Great Coming of the Eternal Joy!**

### **1. The saints shall be presented to God with joy.**

1 Peter 4:13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

### **2. Entering the joy of the Lord will be the reward of saints at the great judgment day.**

Matthew 25:21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

#### **A. Heaven is pictured as a marvelous place of happiness and joy!**

Revelation 21:3-4 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

### **3. Through faithfulness, we can finish our course on earth with joy.**

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

## **Conclusion**

- 1. Worldly people are looking for joy and happiness.**
  - A. Looking for it in worldly pleasures and possessions.**
  - B. They look for it in all kinds of activities: employment, sports, hobbies, etc.**
  - C. They look for it in friends, relatives, family, etc.**
  - D. The Christian does not cast away any honorable worldly reward, but recognizes the greater value in the spiritual reward!**
  
- 2. We rejoice not in the things of this world, but in the Lord.**

**A. Nehemiah said:**

Nehemiah 8:10 Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

**B. David said:**

Psalms 35:9 And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD; It shall rejoice in His salvation.

**C. Jesus, our savior said:**

John 16:22 Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

- 3. Our joy is real, satisfying and lasting!**

