

Comfort & Joy

Part One - JoyFULL

Luke 2:10

The angel said to (the Shepherds), "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy."

▪ Christmas promised joy!

Psalm 51:12

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

Isaiah 35:10

Those who have been ransomed by the LORD will return. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness.

HOW TO BE FILLED WITH JOY

1. Answered prayer results in the fulness of joy.

John 16:24

You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

James 4:2-3

You do not have what you want because you do not ask God for it. 3 And when you ask, you do not receive it, because your motives are bad; you ask for things to use for your own pleasures.

21 Days of Prayer and Fasting: January 6th - 26th

Monday - Friday, 6:00 AM - 7:00 AM

Saturday, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

2. Joy is found in the Word of God.

John 15:11

I have spoken these things to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

Jeremiah 15:16

You spoke to me, and I listened to every word. I belong to you, LORD God Almighty, and so your words filled my heart with joy and happiness.

3. Joy is found in the company of our spiritual family.

2 John 1:12

I have much more to say to you, but I don't want to do it with paper and ink. For I hope to visit you soon and talk with you face to face. Then our joy will be complete.

4. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control...

5. Joy is a process of sowing and reaping.

Psalm 126:5

Let those who wept as they planted their crops, gather the harvest with joy!

Luke 15:7

In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!

Crossroads Christmas Production: The Real Story of Christmas

December 5th - 7th, 7:00 PM

December 8th, 11:00 AM, 2:00 PM, and 5:00 PM

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT JOY

1. Joy has a medicinal effect.

Proverbs 17:22

A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

2. Joy cannot be taken from us.

John 16:22

So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.

3. Joy isn't contingent upon our circumstances.

Habakuk 3:17-19

Even if the fig tree does not bloom and the vines have no grapes, even if the olive tree fails to produce and the fields yield no food, even if the sheep pen is empty and the stalls have no cattle - 18 even then, I will be happy with the LORD. I will truly find joy in God, who saves me. 19 The LORD Almighty is my strength. He makes my feet like those of a deer. He makes me walk on the mountains.

4. Joy provides us with strength.

Nehemiah 8:10

And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!"

- **Christmas is a reminder that God wants to fill us with joy!**