

Festive

Part One - A Festive Faith

Luke 2:10 (GWT)

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

God wants to give us a festive faith.

Isaiah 35:10 (NLT)

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 Acquire a Festive Faith

1. Through Answered Prayer

John 16:24 (NLT)

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.

2. Through God's Word

John 15:11

I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

Jeremiah 15:16 (GNT)

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. Through the Fellowship 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. Through the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

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

Romans 14:17 (GNT)

For God's Kingdom is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of the righteousness, peace, and joy which the Holy Spirit gives.

5. Through Sowing and Reaping

Psalm 126:5 (GNT)

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

Luke 15:7 (NLT)

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!

Four Facts about a Festive Faith:

1. It has a medicinal effect.

Proverbs 17:22 (GNT)

Being cheerful keeps you healthy. It is a slow death to be gloomy all the time.

2. No one can take it from you.

John 16:22 (GNT)

That is how it is with you: now you are sad, but I will see you again, and your hearts will be filled with gladness, the kind of gladness that no one can take away from you.

3. It isn't contingent upon circumstances.

Habakkuk 3:17-18

Even though the fig trees have no fruit and no grapes grow on the vines, even though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no grain, even though the sheep all die and the cattle stalls are empty, 18 I will still be joyful and glad, because the LORD God is my savior.

4. It provides us with strength.

Nehemiah 8:10 (NLT)

"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!"

Psalm 51:12 (NIV)

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.