

# Joy for all

## Opening Text: Luke 2:8-14

**V.10** - “Good tidings of great joy which shall be for all people”

Jesus came into this world to elevate our condition in every respect. **Isaiah 61:1-3** says that He came to give us *the oil of joy for mourning*.

Joy is at the center of the gospel and of what God wants to do in our lives. People, ask me where does your joy come from?

### 1. Joy comes because of salvation

Joy has everything to do with salvation. In fact, Jesus said that there is joy in heaven when people get saved (Luke 15:7,10).

- **Psalms. 51:12**  
*12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.*
- **Isaiah 12:3**  
*3 Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation*
- **Luke 10:20**  
*“Rejoice because your names are written in heaven”*
- **Acts 8:5-8**  
*...“and there was great joy in that city”*

**Jonathan Edwards in “The Surprising work of God”** – “*This work of God, as it went on and the numbers of true saints multiplied, soon made a glorious change in the town, so that in the following spring and summer of 1735, the town seemed to be full of the presence of God. It had never been so full of love and joy (...). It was a time of joy in families because salvation had been brought to them: parents rejoiced over their children as if they had been born, and husbands rejoiced over their wives, and wives over their husbands (page 20). Their joyful surprise has caused their hearts to leap, so that they have been ready to break forth in laughter, tears often at the same time coming forth like a flood*” (page 59).

- **Psalm. 126:1-3** - *When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. <sup>2</sup> then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, “the Lord has done great things for them.<sup>3</sup> The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad.*

As we saw in **Isaiah 61**, joy is part of our salvation package!

Joy is not some silly emotion. Joy is not something childish. Joy is a true spiritual force God has made available to us. Joy isn't unspiritual but a very spiritual and scriptural thing!

## **2. Joy comes because of the Holy Spirit**

- **Galatians 5:22-23**  
*22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*
- **Acts 13:52**  
*52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit*  
  
(Joy and the Holy Spirit go together)
- **Hebrews 1:9b**  
*“your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”*
- **Luke 10:21a**  
*“21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, ...”*
- **Romans 14:17**  
*17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

## **3. Joy comes because of hope**

- **Job 8:20-21**  
*20 Behold, God will not cast away the blameless, nor will He uphold the evildoers. 21 He will yet fill your mouth with laughing, And your lips with rejoicing.*  
  
Joy does not come because of the absence of problems.
- **1 Thessalonians 1:6**  
*6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,*
- **1 Peter 1:7-8**  
*7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,*
- **Philippians 4:4**  
*Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice!*

- **Nehemiah 8:10**

*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.**"*

#### **4. Joy comes because of the presence of God**

- **Pls. 16:11**

*11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

- **Acts 2:28**

*28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'*

- **1 Chronicles 16:27**

*27 Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and gladness are in His place.*

- **Isaiah 56:7**

*7 Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer.*

**John Wesley wrote on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1739** – “About 3 in the morning, as we continued in prayer, the power of God came mightily upon us, in so much that many cried out for exceeding joy, and many fell to the ground. As soon as we were recovered a little from the awe and amazement of the presence of His majesty, we broke out with one voice shouting ‘we praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be Lord”.

*(in The World’s Greatest Revivals” – Fred and Sharon Wright, Destiny Image publishers)*

### **Conclusion**

#### **Glad tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.**

Joy is not the product of culture, youthfulness, personality, being naturally optimistic. No. Joy it is not seasonal – it doesn’t go away after Christmas. No. It doesn’t come from external sources but from eternal sources. It comes...

- Because of salvation
- Because of the Holy spirit,
- Because of hope and
- Because of the presence of God

**Smith Wigglesworth** wrote, “No man gets more out of life than I do. I get more out of a minute than most folks in a month”

**Billy Sunday** wrote: *“If you have no joy in your religion there’s a leak in your Christianity somewhere”*.