



The Advent of Joy

Celebrating Third Sunday of Advent



What Is Joy?

- ⌘ Christmas is the season of good news of GREAT JOY!! Lk.2:10, 14
- ⌘ How would you define “Joy”?
- ⌘ What is the difference between Joy and Happiness?
- ⌘ When was the last time you experienced real Joy?
- ⌘ The emotion of great peace and happiness



Defining Joy?

- ⌘ Joy isn't just a smile or a laugh. Joy is something that is deep within and doesn't leave quickly. When we have the joy of the Lord, we'll know it and so will others.
- ⌘ Joy is the deep-seated sense of contented pleasure that flows from our Hope and Peace in knowing and living in the Presence, Power and Promises of God.
- ⌘ Given the lack of global and personal peace today, is it any wonder there is also little true JOY?



Being Joyful

- ⌘ It is a command of God to be Joy-filled
 - ✘ Psalm 2:11 - Serve Jehovah with fear, and REJOICE with trembling. ??
 - ✘ Psalm 32:11 - REJOICE in the LORD and be glad, you righteous;
 - ✘ Phil.4:4 – Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again. REJOICE!
 - ✘ James 1:2 – Consider it all JOY when you encounter various trials.
- Can you command someone to be Joyful?



Being Joyful

- ⌘ It is right to use “Joy” and “Suffering” in the same sentence – they are not opposites!
 - ✘ James 1:2 – Consider it pure JOY whenever you face trials of many kinds
 - ✘ Acts 5:40-41; Apostles –flogged, ordered, released, rejoiced
 - ✘ Heb.10:34,35 - Joyfully accepted confiscation because you knew ... they had Hope - cf.35
 - ✘ Rom.5:3-5 – We rejoice in our sufferings because we know ...



Being Joyful, In All Things

- ⌘ How is it possible to be joyful in all things?
- ⌘ It begins with what you know or think
 - ✧ James 1:3 **knowing** that the testing produces ...
 - ✧ Rom.5:3 we **know** that suffering produces ...
 - ✧ Heb.10:34 because you **knew** ...
 - ✧ Knowing shapes values which affects responses
- ⌘ Responses come from what we know – believe-faith
 - ✧ Rom.10:17 – Faith comes from hearing the word of Christ



Being Joyful, In All Things

- ⌘ Heb.11:1 – Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see - Eph.1:17-19
- ⌘ Faith is seeing the Presence, Power and Promises of God as more real, than the circumstances around you. Cf. Eph.3:16-21
- ⌘ Heb.11:6 Without Faith it is impossible to please God. For those who seek Him must believe that He IS, and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.



Being Joyful, In All Things

- Rom.5:1-3 - Therefore, since we have been justified through **faith**, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by **faith** into this grace in which we now stand. And we **rejoice** in the **hope** of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also **rejoice** in our sufferings,



Being Joyful, In All Things

- ⌘ If you do not have faith, you will not have Hope or Peace or Joy
- ⌘ Faith → Hope → Peace
- ⌘ Faith → Hope → Peace → Joy
- ⌘ Joy is the deep-seated sense of contented pleasure that flows from our Hope and Peace in knowing and living in the Presence, Power and Promises of God.



Being Joyful, In All Things

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Do You Want Joy?

- ⌘ It begins with what you know, live and believe
 - ✘ Do you know the Character, Purposes and Ways of God and act on it?
 - ✘ Faith is living what God tells you to do
 - ✘ Are you studying the Bible or books about Jesus and the Bible?
- ⌘ Hope and Peace flow from knowing and living the truths of God
- ⌘ Joy is the outflow of Hope and Peace filling your mind, talk and friendships



Do You Want Joy?

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