

**“The Joy of Christmas”**

# I. The Joy of Christmas

## A. *Experienced that 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas*

Luke 1:43,44

*And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.*

Matthew 2:10

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.*

## **Luke 2:10**

And so the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

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## **Psalms 42:9**

“I say to God my Rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?”

## **2 Corinthians 1:20**

“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.”

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B. *Mary's Joy*

C. *Doesn't Dissipate in Hard Times*



Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

- Phil. 4:4

After calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and *then* released them. So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name. - Acts 5:40,41

## Acts 16:22-25

The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order *them* to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; <sup>24</sup> and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> But about midnight Paul and Silas ***were praying and singing hymns of praise to God,*** and the prisoners were listening to them.

## 1 Thessalonians 1:6

You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit

"I don't do it. In fact, may I tell you honestly how I woke up this morning? This is an average day. After my husband, Ken, leaves for work at 6:00 A.M., I'm alone until I hear the front door open at 7:00 A.M. That's when a friend arrives to get me up. While I listen to her make coffee, I pray, 'Oh, Lord, my friend will soon give me a bath, get me dressed, sit me up in my chair, brush my hair and teeth, and send me out the door. I don't have the strength to face this routine one more time. I have no resources. I don't have a smile to take into the day. But you do. May I have yours? God, I need you desperately.'"

"I turn my head toward her and give her a smile sent straight from heaven. It's not mine. It's God's. And so whatever joy you see today was hard won this morning."

I have learned that the weaker we are, the more we need to lean on God; and the more we lean on God, the stronger we discover him to be.

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# **II. Experiencing this Joy**

*A. Rooted in a Spiritual Reality*

*B. Must Choose to live on a Spiritual Plane*

# **III. Impact of Joy on our Lives**

*A. Gives us Strength*

## Nehemiah 8:10

Then he said to them, “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, *for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*



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*B. Provides Motivation*

## Hebrews 12:1,2

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, *who for the joy set before Him* endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

“Joy is the surest sign of the presence of  
God.” - *Pierre de Chardin*

*“Joy is the flag that flies over the castle  
of our hearts announcing that the king is  
in residence today.”*

“A gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms, and nothing in all religious history has done Christianity more harm than its connection with black clothes and long faces.”

- *William Barclay*

“The glum, sour faces of many Christians. ... They rather give the impression that, instead of coming from the Father's joyful banquet, they have just come from the Sheriff who has auctioned off their sins and now are sorry they can't get them back again.”

– Helmut Thielicke

