

# JOY

**What** exactly is this **joy** that the Scriptures mention so often? The **Greek** word used for joy is “**chara**” (pronounced *khar-ah*) which, according to Strong’s Greek Dictionary means:

- **cheerfulness**, that is, **calm delight**:—gladness,

Joy is the overwhelming sense of **exultation** and **rapture** that we **receive** as a **gift** from **God**

- **Ezra 6:22** -- *And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy; for the LORD made them joyful*

The reason many Christians miss out on the **Joy of the Lord** is because they **confuse joy with happiness**

- **Happiness** is an **emotion** that is **dependent** on circumstances
- **Joy** is an **attitude** that is **not dependent** on circumstances

Not only is joy independent of circumstances, but it is **available** to us in unlimited supplies directly from **Christ** through the **Holy Spirit**

- **1Thessalonians 1:6** – *And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit*
- **Galatians 5:22-23** -- *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control.*

**James**, Christ’s brother, also states that we can experience **God’s joy** even in times of **troubles**, reiterating what the prophet **Habbakuk** wrote in the Old Testament

- **James 1:2** -- *count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*
- **Habbakuk 3:18** -- *Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls; Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.*

Jesus says that we should be **joyful** even when we are **persecuted**

- **Luke 6:22-23** -- *Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man’s sake. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.*

When times are tough, we need only tap into this **endless supply** of living water to refresh our spirit with **God’s joy**

- **Paul** was able to **rejoice** in Christ even when he was **imprisoned!**
  - **Acts 16:25-26** -- *But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.*
  - **Acts 20:24** -- <sup>22</sup>*And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup>except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. None of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy,*

The Lord's joy is the **antidote** to the worries and concerns of this world

- **Isaiah 35:10** -- *And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*
- **Nehemiah 8:10** -- *Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*

**Singing songs of praise** is often **associated with joy** in the Scriptures

- **Psalm 95:1**-- *Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.*
- **Psalm 98:4** -- *Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth; Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.*
- **Psalm 100:1-2** *Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. <sup>2</sup>Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. (KJV)*

What happens if we **don't experience this unlimited, always available gift of joy?**

- Besides **missing out** on a **wonderful and powerful gift** of God, the Bible says that the Lord God will **punish** us for not doing so!!
  - **Deuteronomy 28:47** -- *“Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in need of everything; and He will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you.*

Why is the Lord so **harsh** when we don't serve **Him with joy?**

- Because then we give into to **complaining**
  - **1Corinthians 10:10** -- *nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.*
  - **Numbers 11:1** -- *Now when the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp.*

So being **joyful in the Lord** is not only a **wonderful gift** but also a **requirement** in order to **overcome the temptations** of the enemy and slip into **complaining, depression, anger, etc.**

- In addition, the Lord wants us to **manifest joy** to the world so that the lost will see that there is **something they need and want**
- **Gloom and doom** is not the **attitude** the Lord wants us to **display to the world**
  - **2Corinthians 4:6** -- *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*
  - **Luke 11:33-37** -- *No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light. <sup>34</sup>The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. <sup>35</sup>Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness.*

If you're not experiencing the joy of God at any time, then ask Him to fill you with it

- **Job 33:26** – *He shall pray to God, and He will delight in him, He shall see His face with joy, for He restores to man His righteousness.*
- **Psalm 51:12**—*Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.*

- **Psalm 16:11** – *You will **show me** the path of life; in **Your presence** is **fullness of joy**; at **Your right hand** are **pleasures forevermore**.*

Of course, we will not be able to be **joyful all the time**

- But, when we're not, we **must not wallow in sorrows, anger, depression, etc.**, but instead **seek His joy**
  - **Psalm 30:5** – *For His **anger** is but for a moment, His **favor** is for life; **weeping** may endure for a night, but **joy comes in the morning***
  - **John 15:11** – *These things I have spoken to you that **My joy** may **remain** in you and that your **joy** may be **full***

What are the **benefits** of being **full of joy**?

- **Prov. 15:13** -- *A **merry heart** makes a **cheerful countenance**, But by **sorrow of the heart** the **spirit** is **broken**.*
- **Prov. 17:22** -- *A **merry heart** does good, like **medicine**,but a **broken spirit** dries the **bones**.*

We **can** have **joy all the time**, regardless of circumstances – but we have to **learn** how to **receive** it, and **remember** to do so

- **Hebrews 12:2** – *Looking unto **Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the **joy** that was set before Him, **endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God*
- **Isaiah 61:1-3** -- *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has **anointed Me** to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to **heal the brokenhearted**, to proclaim **liberty to the captives**, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup>To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God ;to **comfort all who mourn**, to **console those who mourn** in Zion, to give them **beauty for ashes**, the **oil of joy for mourning**, the **garment of praise** for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that **He may be glorified**.”*

Job 33:26

<sup>26</sup>He shall pray to God, and He will delight in him, He shall see His face with joy, For He restores to man His righteousness.

Psalm 5:11

<sup>11</sup>But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them;

Let those also who love Your name be joyful in You.

Psalm 16:11

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

Psalm 30:5

<sup>5</sup>For His anger *is but for* a moment, His favor *is for* life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy *comes* in the morning.

Psalm 35:9

<sup>9</sup>And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD; It shall rejoice in His salvation.

Psalm 51:12

<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me *by Your* generous Spirit.

Psalm 63:5

<sup>5</sup>My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

Psalm 89:15

<sup>15</sup>Blessed *are* the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance.

Psalm 126:5

<sup>5</sup>Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

Isaiah 29:19

<sup>19</sup>The humble also shall increase *their* joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 56:7

<sup>7</sup>Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices *will be* accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Isaiah 61:3

<sup>3</sup>To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

Matthew 13:44

<sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Matthew 25:21

<sup>21</sup>His lord said to him, ‘Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

Luke 6:22-23

<sup>22</sup>

John 15:11

<sup>11</sup>“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.

Romans 15:13

<sup>13</sup>Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22

Hebrews 12:2

<sup>2</sup>looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

James 1:2

<sup>2</sup>My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.