**Maintaining a Full Joy Tank – Part 1**

*We have many reasons to be full of joy:*

We know Nehemiah 8 tells us “The Joy of the Lord is our strength.”

Here are a few definitions of Joy:

1. an inward attitude of rejoicing in one’s salvation regardless of outward circumstances.
2. a deep feeling or condition of happiness or contentment
3. something causing such a feeling; a source of happiness

**4 REASONS WE CAN KEEP OUR JOY TANK FULL:**

We can maintain a Full Joy tank because:

#1) We are in right standing with God. Sin separated us from God, our Holy Heavenly Father

**Power point** – Jesus became sin for us and we became right with God!

Romans 3:23-25 23For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. 24Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. 25For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,

A - We are saved- Acts 2:21 NLT - But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Ephesians 2:8 NIV 8For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God

B - We have been adopted [Galatians 3:26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+3:26&version=KJV) (KJV) For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

C - We are friends of God-Romans 5:11 (NLT) So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God. (We all have stories of spending time with friends)

**We can maintain a Full Joy tank because:**

#2) We are redeemed from the curse of the Law –Thank God for JESUS!

The curse of the law was three-fold poverty, sickness and death.

**PowerPoint:** We are no longer under the curse. Jesus freed us from the curse and now we are blessed. We are redeemed!

Redeem - to obtain the release or restoration of, as from captivity, by paying a ransom; regain possession of (something) in exchange for payment; to deliver from sin and its consequences by means of a sacrifice offered.

Galatians 3:13 (NKJV) 13Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree”),

**AN EXCHANGE WAS MADE**

A) Jesus took my place. For poverty I have divine wealth

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

B) Jesus took my sickness and I have his divine health

We are healed- 1 peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

C) Jesus gave his life that I will have everlasting life

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Heaven is our home.

**WE CAN MAINTAIN A FULL JOY TANK BECAUSE:**

#3) We receive answers to our prayers - God hears and answers our prayers when we pray according to his will.

1 John 5:14-15 14This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

John 16:23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

**Power Point:** We, the children of God, can go to our secret place and pray to the Father in Jesus Name and know he hears us when we pray his will.

Matthew 6:6 (NKJV) 6But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place;* and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

**Lastly, We can maintain a Full Joy tank because:**

#4) We will win over all the challenges of life. Regardless of how small or great the challenges are in this life, if we stand in faith we will always win.

2 Corinthians 2:14 ERV 14But thanks be to God, who always leads us in victory through Christ. God uses us to spread his knowledge everywhere like a sweet-smelling perfume.

1 John 5:3-4 ERV 3Loving God means obeying his commands. And God’s commands are not too hard for us, 4because everyone who is a child of God has the power to win against the world.

Challenges come but we are victorious.

**Power Point:** Being full of joy is a lifestyle (We must Keep our Joy tank full)

Philippians 4:4 (KJV) "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

[Psalm 9:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+9:2&version=KJV) I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.

Question - How often are we to rejoice?

**Note:** There is a difference between joy and happiness

Joy is a fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-25 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! 24Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.

**Discussion Question:**

1. Why is joy necessary for the believer?

2. Why can you be joyful in difficult times?

3. How do you keep your joy tank full?