

JOY TO THE WORLD

As we kick off the Christmas season, I want you to think about **WHO** really brings you JOY? or I can ask it this way, **WHERE** does your JOY come from?

I used to think joy came from earthly things, **but can earthly things really give us complete joy?**

Having tangible things are great, but if we don't have Jesus, we are missing the greatest piece to our puzzle of life. Apart from Jesus, we have nothing!

Acts 17:28 "For in him we live and move and breathe"

The very existence of our life is found in Jesus Christ. Because of Him we have life.

God created us to have a relationship with him, so that's why apart from him there is a void-an emptiness that can only be filled once our relationship with him has been restored. He is the one who give our life meaning and purpose.

JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GIVE US COMPLETE JOY!

I. Jesus birth and life on earth brought JOY TO THE WORLD!

Luke 2:10–11 "but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you GOOD news that will bring GREAT JOY to ALL people. 11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!"

Matthew 2:10 "When they (wise men) saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy."

Luke 1:44 "For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy."

JESUS BIRTH BROUGHT EXCEEDING JOY!

Matthew 4:23 "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing **EVERY** disease and sickness among the people."

Matthew 8:16 "When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word and healed **ALL** who were ill."

Matthew 15:30 "And large crowds came to Him, bringing with them those who were lame, crippled, blind, mute, and many others, and they laid them down at His feet; and He healed **THEM.**"

Jesus brought **EXCEEDING JOY** to the world in which He lived. He impacted the lives of everyone he encountered during his life on earth.

II. Death, Burial & Resurrection of Jesus brought JOY TO THE WORLD

3 DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Nothing, absolutely nothing compares to what Christ accomplished on the cross for the sins of the world.

Hebrew 12:2 “Now stay focused on Jesus who designed and perfected our faith. He endured the cross and ignored the shame of that death, because He focused on the joy that was set before Him and now He is seated beside God on the throne, a place of honor.”

Jesus is our ultimate example that if we endure and do not waver through the trials and temptations and focus on doing the will of God we will be rewarded for our willingness and obedience.

Isaiah 1:19 “If you are willing and obedient, You, shall eat the best of the land.”

John 16:22 “So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy.”

There is no man, no thing, no power in hell that can undo what Jesus did on the cross. THIS IS SOMETHING WE CAN EVER BE ROBBED OF!

REJOICE because he is the one who put an end to your sinful nature and when he died that old man died. DEATH WAS NOT AND COULD NOT BE THE END OF THE STORY. Jesus had to be RESURRECTED for NEW LIFE to begin!

Roman's 6:4 “that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also should walk in newness of life.”

III. The good news of SALVATION in Jesus brought JOY TO THE WORLD

Psalm 32:1-2 “How joyful is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! 2 How joyful is the man the Lord does not charge with sin.

We can be JOYFUL because we have been forgiven of ALL our sins! The bondage of sin has been broken over our life!

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The consequence of not knowing God earns us death.

We have spiritual life instead spiritual death.

Spiritual death is the spiritual separation from God that occurred as a consequence of Adam and Eve's sin. Because of their disobedience sin was brought into the world and everyone from then on was born with a sinful nature-meaning, spiritually separated from God.

Because God loves us so much and see us as his greatest creation, he created a plan to restore our relationship with him that was broken by sin.

Romans 8:3 "The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So, God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins."

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."

The sin that had separated us from God was overcome by Jesus.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Romans 10:13 For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

Everyone, regardless of what you have done in the past, if you **confess** your sins to God, he will **forgive** every one of them. If you call upon Jesus, you will be **saved**. God's spirit, which is Holy Spirit will come and dwell on the inside of you. That void you once felt will be filled with EVERLASTING EXCEEDING JOY!

2 Corinthians 5:17 "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

The moment you make Jesus your Lord and Savior, you become a new creation.

Psalms 35:9 KJV "And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation."

POWER POINT: THERE IS NO JOY IN THE ABSENCE OF CHRIST!

IV. There is JOY IN THE PRESENCE of God

Psalms 16:11 "You lead me in the path of life; I experience absolute joy in your presence; you always give me sheer delight."

Here is one way to say it: "If I am in God's presence, then I must be filled with His joy."
Here is another way to say it: "If I am not filled with His joy, then I must not be in God's presence." Selah (think about it)

God's spirit (which is his presence) resides on the inside of ever born-again believer, therefore, we are **never** out of God's presence.

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the SPIRIT is love, JOY, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."

POWER POINT: JOY IS PRODUCE MY THE SPIRIT, NOT BY THE BELIEVER

ONCE WE BECOME BORN AGAIN ALL THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD ARE PLACED ON THE INSIDE OF US AND AS WE GROW SPIRITUALLY WHATS ON THE INSIDE WILL BE MANIFESTED ON THE OUTSIDE.

Although we may miss it sometime, our heart is to become more Christ like every day.

POWERPOINT: JOY IS A GIFT FROM GOD! AND THE GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE BORN AGAIN IT IS AN ABUNDANT AND EVERLASTING JOY!

We have a part to play to assure that we maintain that abundant and everlasting JOY!

#1 We must keep our thoughts, our emotions & our tongue in check. Making sure we keep them in line with the word of God!

One of the ways we do this is through our spoken words

Job 22:28 states, "Thou shalt also decree a thing and it shall be **established unto thee and the light shall shine upon thy ways.**"

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A. Champion over our mind

I WILL NOT ALLOW MY MIND TO BE CLUTTERED WITH THOUGHTS THAT WILL NOT PRODUCE THE BLESSED LIFE IN ME AND OTHERS. I WILL ONLY THINK ON WHAT IS TRUE, HONEST, GOOD, RIGHT, PURE, LOVELY AND GOOD THINGS ABOUT OTHERS AND I WILL MEDITATE ON ALL THE AMAZINGLY GOOD THINGS GOD HAS DONE.

B. Champion over our emotions

I WILL NOT ALLOW MYSELF TO BE CONTROLLED BY WHAT OTHERS SAY AND DO TO ME GOOD OR BAD. I WILL THANK THEM THAT HONOR AND SAY AND DO GOOD THINGS TO ME BUT I WILL NOT ALLOW MYSELF TO BECOME LIFTED UP WITH PRIDE. NEITHER WILL I ALLOW, MYSELF TO BE DEPRESSED, INSECURE, ANGRY, HURT OR DISTURBED WHEN SOMEONE SAYS OR DOES SOMETHING OFFENSIVE TO ME. I WILL SMILE AND RELEASE THE CHAMPION OF LOVE AND PEACE FROM WITHIN MY HEART AND THE CHAMPION OF LOVE WILL GIVE ME THE VICTORY OVER MY EMOTIONS AND ENCOURAGE THOSE I AM AROUND. I WILL RELEASE THE CHAMPION INSIDE TO CHAMPION OVER MY BODY. I WILL NOT ALLOW THE DESIRE OR APPETITES OF MY BODY TO CONTROL WHAT I DO OR DON'T DO. WHAT I EAT OR DON'T EAT. THE CHAMPION IN ME BRINGS MY BODY UNDER CONTROL. I WILL EAT WHAT IS LIFE PRODUCING AND EXERCISE FOR THE PHYSICAL WELLNESS OF MY BODY.

THE SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD LIVES IN MY BODY AND ENERGIZES MY BODY. I HAVE DIVINE HEALTH IN MY BODY. EVERY CELL, ORGAN AND PART OF MY BODY FUNCTIONS WITH DIVINE PRECISION. I AM GODS CHAMPION INSIDE AND OUT.

C. Champion over tongue

I WILL ONLY SPEAK WORDS THAT ARE SPOKEN IN LOVE EVEN WHEN I DISCIPLINE, I WILL MAKE SURE MY WORDS ARE NOT DESTRUCTIVE. I WILL SHARE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE LOVE IN MY HEART. DEATH AND LIFE COMES FROM MY WORDS THEREFORE I WILL NOT CURSE OTHERS AND MYSELF WITH DESTRUCTIVE WORDS. I WILL SPEAK GRACIOUS WORDS THAT WILL ENCOURAGE, BUILD UP AND MOTIVATE OTHERS TO BE AND DO ALL GOD HAS CREATED THEM TO BE AND TO ACCOMPLISH.

I WILL NOT SPEAK ABOUT THE MUNDANE THINGS I SEE BUT I WILL ESTABLISH MY ENVIRONMENT BY SPEAKING GODLY LIFE PRODUCING WORDS OF PEACE, JOY, THE BLESSINGS OF GOD AND THE GREATNESS OF GOD.

I WILL NEVER COMPLAIN NEITHER WILL I BE JUDGEMENTAL OF OTHERS BUT I WILL ALWAYS BE THANKFUL TO GOD FOR THE AMAZING LIFE HE HAS GIVEN ME. I AM GODS CHAMPION AND I LIVE THE ROYAL KINGDOM LIFE GOD DESIGNED FOR ME.

#2 We must keep our JOY STIRRED UP!

A believer's spirit is always full of Joy because it is the spirit of God.

2 Timothy 1:6 says to stir up the gift, which is in you

JOY IS A GIFT FROM GOD

3 ways I think is vital in order to keep your JOY stirred up.

- **Having an Attitude of Gratitude.**

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

The cure for complaining is gratitude.

Keep yourself in Remembrance of all Jesus has done for you.

Remember...and give Him thanks. This will keep your heart warm and tender and keep your JOY STIRRED UP!

- **Fresh communion. (Spiritual food daily)**

Spend time daily delighting yourself in His Word; the words we feed on become the joy of our heart, supplying us throughout our day.

Make it a daily habit of taking in God's Word as our spiritual nourishment will help us to keep our JOY STIRRED UP!

- **Fellowship with the Lord daily**

In John 16:24, the Lord Jesus says to "ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be made full."

Fellowshipping with God about everything brings us JOY.

Make it a lifestyle to fellowship with God everyday and throughout the day—not only at set times or during major life events—we strengthen our loving relationship with Him through constant fellowship and it help us to keep our JOY STIRRED UP!

#3 WE MUST SHARE THE JOY OF THE LORD

Because a believer has God's spirit on the inside of them people ought to sense the joy of the lord when in their presence.

POWERPOINT: YOU MAY BE THE ONLY JESUS THAT PERSON EVER SEE.

We know what God has done for us so we should want to share it with everyone we meet so they can have the same experience.

Romans 10:14-15 ¹⁴ But how can people call on him for help if they've not yet believed? And how can they believe in one they've not yet heard of? And how can they hear the message of life if there is no one there to proclaim it? ¹⁵ And how can the message be proclaimed if messengers have yet to be sent? That's why the Scriptures say: How welcome is the arrival of those proclaiming the joyful news of peace and of good things to come!

If you are born again, think about where you would be if no one had shared the good news about Jesus with you!

We must be willing to be that mouthpiece for Jesus!

POWERPOINT: YOU CAN'T SHARE WHAT YOU DONT HAVE

Joy is part of our covenant right. If it is true JOY you want, give your life to Jesus.

JESUS = JOY

Choose Jesus this day so you can spend this Christmas season in JOY!

John 3:16 NLT

“For this is how God loved the world, He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.