



How to Experience Greater *Joy* in 2020

1/5/20

Christmas Joy

Luke 2:10 "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you

good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people;

¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

New Year's Joy

Nehemiah 8:1 And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they asked Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had given to Israel.

² Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women, and all who *could* listen with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month.

³ And he read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁴ And Ezra the scribe stood at a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood (*other teachers who*)

⁷ ...explained the law to the people while the people *remained* in their place.

⁸ And they read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.

⁹ Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law.

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."

...¹³ Then on the second day the heads of fathers' *households* of all the people, the priests, and the Levites were gathered to Ezra the scribe that they might gain insight into the words of the law.

¹⁴ And they found written in the law how the LORD had commanded through Moses that the sons of Israel should live in booths during the feast of the seventh month.

...¹⁷ And the entire assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in them. The sons of Israel had indeed not done so from the days of Joshua the son of Nun to that day. And there was great rejoicing.

¹⁸ And he read from the book of the law of God daily, from the first day to the last day. And they celebrated the feast seven days, and on the eighth day *there was* a solemn assembly according to the ordinance.

9:1 Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the sons of Israel assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dirt upon them.

I. God desires us to experience Christ-centered joy without losing Christ-centered sorrow

(Rejoicing is possible, God-honoring and commanded)

Acts 20:31 ...night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

Romans 9:2 ...I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart.

³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed, *separated* from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,

Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief...

⁴ Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried...

John 15:11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

Acts 5:41 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 13:52 And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 6:10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing ...

2 Corinthians 7:4 ...I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.

II. How to experience greater Christ-centered joy

A. Rejoice in God's Love and Provision (Psalm 100)

(to rejoice is to choose to worship Christ for who He is and what He's done, is doing and will do no matter what)

B. Rejoice in S _____

Luke 10:20 "...rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

Matthew 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has, and buys that field.

Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy...

1 Peter 1:3 God... has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials...

C. Rejoice in H _____

Isaiah 65:17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

¹⁸ "But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem *for* rejoicing, And her people *for* gladness.

¹⁹ "I will also rejoice in Jerusalem, and be glad in My people..."

Matthew 25:21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.'

1 Peter 4:13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.

Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

D. Rejoice in G _____

Romans 5:1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult (rejoice) in hope of the glory of God.

³ And not only this, but we also exult (rejoice) in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

⁴ and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

⁵ and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

⁶ For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

E. Rejoice in O _____

2 Corinthians 1:24 (We) are workers with you for your joy

Philippians 1:25 ...I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith,

Philippians 2:17 even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

¹⁸ And you too, *I urge you*, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

2 John 1:12 ...I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that your joy may be made full.

1 Thessalonians 2:19 ...who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 3:9 For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account...