



Profound: Joy

Scripture: Luke 2:8-14

Date: 12-18-22

Bible Version: NLT

BOTTOM LINE: The *presence* of Jesus our Savior reveals the *promise of profound JOY*.

Happiness is based on happenings; it is external, dependent upon events, people, places, things, and thoughts.

Joy is unaffected by circumstances; it is internal, it is a settled state of contentment, confidence, and hope.

- The Greek word for joy (*chara*) appears 59 times in the New Testament and *rejoice* appears another 78 times.

Mega-Joy

8That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. 9Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, 10but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! 12And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."13Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,14"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." Luke 2:8-14

- The original story of Christmas is one of *good news, great joy, for all people*.
- The Greek word for great is *me gas*, the angel is declaring mega-joy, profound joy, for the world.

22But 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! Galatians 5:22-23

- Joy isn't being in the Christmas spirit; joy is a fruit of the Spirit.
- God himself, is the source of joy.
- Joy is the fruit, when Jesus is the root.

The Gift of Joy is Found in the Presence of Pain.

2Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. James 1:2-3

- God can transform your test into your testimony, and it can be an opportunity for joy.

“Hardships can transform us into something beautiful. That is cause for unspeakable Joy – not because of the pain but because of the purpose behind it.” – Tony Evans

Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. Psalms 126:5

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2 NIV

- Jesus set joy before him because there was purpose in the pain, he made it through Friday by keeping his eye on Sunday. As believers we all have an eternal hope in heaven.

The Gift of Joy is Found in the Presence of Praise.

25About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. 26Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At

once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.
Acts 16:25-26

- In spite of being beaten and imprisoned, Paul kept his eyes focused on Christ by praying and singing praises.

Three insights from Paul's Perspective of Praise:

1. They were praising God for the WHO, not the WHAT
2. They were praising God before the provision.
3. They were praising God and *then* he showed up.

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Philippians 4:4

- The path to Joy comes through praise.

"Biblical joy has to do with stability and celebration on the inside regardless of circumstances on the outside. We must choose to rejoice in order to experience the joy God promises us." – Tony Evans

The Presence of a Savior Reveals the Promise of Profound Joy.

*10*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!
Luke 2:10-11

- God sent help from heaven: a savior for all mankind.
- Jesus came to save you and transform you.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Psalms 51:12 NIV

- True and lasting joy is found in the presence of Jesus the Savior of the World.

3D Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: The *presence* of Jesus our Savior reveals the *promise* of *profound* JOY.



1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



1. Share a time when you felt deep joy even in the middle of a painful situation.
2. How does praising God change your perspective on your problems?
3. Read Psalm 16:11. How does considering God's presence cultivate joy?



DO.

Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that were studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.