

God Where Are You
Choose Joy
May 4/5, 2019

James 1:2-4 Consider it **pure joy**, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces **perseverance**. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature and complete**, not lacking anything.

Nehemiah 8:10 Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your **strength**.

Bible Truths on Joy:

- ✓ Knowing God has a plan for my life.

Psalm 16:5-11 LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

- ✓ Certain that God will work it out.

1 Peter 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

- ✓ When I choose joy.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Psalm 126:1-6 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Restore our fortunes, Lord, **like streams in the Negev**. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will **return with songs of joy**, carrying sheaves with them.

1. Stop focusing on the past.

Philippians 1:12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.

2. Discover new opportunities.

Philippians 1:13-14 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

3. Focus on what really matters.

Philippians 1:15-18 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. **But what does it matter?** The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this **I rejoice**. Yes, and **I will continue to rejoice**.

Walk-away: I choose joy.