

# Joy to the World

The Christmas story begins in Isaiah actually the prophetic narrative begins at the beginning when the Father spoke...

Gen 3:15 (NASB) .....He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel.”

Then Isa spoke into the prophetic narrative and said...

Isa 9:6 (KJV) For **unto** us a child is born, **unto** us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Notice unto us - not into the world but unto us.

Christ wasn't born into the world but unto a people.

Joh 4:10 (AMPC) Jesus answered her, If you had only known and had recognized God's gift and Who this is that is saying to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him [instead] and He would have given you living water.

Not all we recognize and did not receive but to those of us who recognize and receive He was born unto us

Christ is uniquely mine and I am uniquely His - He was born unto me and given to me as a Gift from God.

Luk 2:10 (NASB) And so the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of **great joy** which will be for all the people;

The angels said, **For I have come to bring you good news, the most joyous news the world has ever heard! And it is for everyone everywhere!** The unto us Child has been born.

This is news they had been waiting to hear since Gen 3

When you hear what you had been longing to hear it produces great joy

\*Woman who was told she was dying

Understand the difference between happy and joy

- **Happy is environmental** - Happiness is external. It's based on situations, events, people, places, things, and thoughts.
- **Happy is emotional**
- **Happy is temperamental**

Happiness is future-oriented and it puts all its eggs in someone else's basket.

It is dependent on outside situations, people, or events to align with your expectations so that the end result is your happiness

But Joy isn't like that It's a spiritual quality that is internal

God isn't committed to your happiness but to your wholeness

Which is why on your path towards wholeness you will sometimes be unhappy.

\*God told me to forgive....

The good news that you hear and believe always results in great joy

Joh 15:11 (NASB) "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

Words are carriers. Words are always carriers. They can carry sorrow or joy, light or darkness, life or death.

Joh 6:63 (NLT) The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And **the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.**

Joh 6:63 (TPT) "The Holy Spirit is the one who gives life, that which is of the natural realm is of no help. The words I speak to you are Spirit and life. But there are still some of you who won't believe."

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

You were not designed to carry sorrow, anxiety, sadness. You were designed to abide in overwhelming overflowing JOY

Isa 65:18 "But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing And her people for gladness.

## Every Say, I choose JOY

The good news produces great joy.

Christmas like any other season is what you make of it.

## It holds promise but no guarantees

In life we always have a minimum of two choices.

We can choose blessing / curse; life/death; joy/misery; joyful/sad

I pray today you would choose joyful over sad for it is the will of God that you be joy-filled.

And your words are either your emancipation or your incarceration.

For many permission to be joyful requires we change our idea of Christianity.

Christianity isn't a lifestyle of sorrow, sacrifice and misery.

Certainly we experience sorrow, and are called upon to sacrifice and will walk through miserable times BUT....

2Co 6:10 (TPT) We may suffer, yet in every season we are always found rejoicing. We may be poor, yet we bestow great riches on many. We seem to have nothing, yet in reality we possess all things.

Why JOY?

Joy infuses you with Supernatural Strength.

Neh 8:10 (NLT) And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!"

רִיבּוֹן mā'ōz, A masculine noun meaning a refuge, a fortress, a shelter. It signifies a stronghold or fortress or a protected location or place of safety

Joy is an attitude God's people adopt, not because of happy circumstances but because of their hope in God's love, grace and promise.

So when the Israelites were suffering from slavery in Egypt, God raised up Moses to lead them into freedom, and the first thing the Israelites did was sing for joy. Even though they were in the middle of a desert. They were vulnerable; the promised land was still far away. They rejoiced anyway

**Psa 105:43 (NASB) And He led out His people with joy, His chosen ones with a joyful shout.**

**This joy in the wilderness, this was a defining moment, a way of saying that the joy of God's people is not determined by their struggles but by their future destiny.**

Now this doesn't mean you ignore or suppress your sorrow. That's not healthy or necessary.

Paul often expressed his grief about missing loved ones or losing friends or his own freedom. He called it "being full of sorrow and yet rejoicing."

As he acknowledged his pain, he also made a choice to trust Jesus that his loss wouldn't be the final word.

This is why I have said you that Faith is not the denial of your circumstance or present reality. It is the acknowledgment of a higher, greater reality and truth.

**Heb 12:2 (NASB) looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

# Everyone say, “I choose JOY!”

*Proverbs 15:13 A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken.*

*Proverbs 17:22 A joyful heart is good medicine, But a broken spirit dries up the bones.*

*Psalms 100:1-2 (NLT) Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth! 2 Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy.*

You are not a victim of circumstances unless you chose to be.

JOY empowers you to press through misfortunes, sadness locks you into them.

Christian joy is an intense decision of faith and hope in the power of Jesus' own life and love. And that's what biblical joy is all about.