

Christmas Series
“God Came Near”
Part 3: JOY
Sunday, December 20th, 2020

In ancient biblical Hebrew, there’s a variety of words, like *simcha*, *sason*, or *giyl*, and in the Greek New Testament there’s *khara*, *euphrosune*, or *agalliasis*.

“Joy” is a key theme that runs through the whole story of the Bible.

Proverbs 27:9 (NLT)

“The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.”

REJOICE ANYWAY

Psalm 105:43 (NLT)

“So he brought his people out of Egypt with joy, his chosen ones with rejoicing.”

The joy of God’s people is not determined by our struggles but by our future destiny.

Isaiah 51:11-12 (NLT)

“Those who have been ransomed by the Lord will return. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness.”

JOY IN THE WILDERNESS

Matthew 5:12 (NIV)

“Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Philippians 3:1 (NIV)

“Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.”

Paul taught us that joy is a gift of God’s Spirit, a sign that Jesus’ presence is with you, inspiring hope in the midst of hardship.

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

When you believe that Jesus’ love has overcome death itself, joy becomes reasonable in the darkest of circumstances.

**Christian joy is a profound decision of faith and hope in the power of Jesus' own
life and love.**

GOD CAME NEAR: PEACE, HOPE & JOY

EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US