

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message

October 26, 2025 "Let's Sing!! Finding God in the songs we sing." "I've Got Joy"

I Intro.

We're moving through fall. A lot is going to happen between now and the end of the year. Stay connected to our social media to keep up with everything that's happening. Welcome to our companion devotional to Sunday's message. It's just a part of all we have to offer to you. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing. We hope you find this tool helpful on your spiritual journey. We don't want you to miss out on anything. We consider you part of our community. We have many ways you can plug into life at NCC. You can find all those through our website, app, and social media sites. Our app is the best way to livestream our services, but you can also livestream on FaceBook and YouTube. You can revisit past services, sign up for events and even give. We're encouraged by your presence when you gather with us. New and familiar faces join us every Sunday. If you join us online, we appreciate your presence. We are 100% committed to our virtual attenders. We are your church family, and if there is anything you need, prayer, or anything else, please let us know.

II Recap.

The purpose of this series is to see worship as bigger than just singing. It's to find and experience truths we can apply to our own personal lives that grow us in our regular daily walk with God. The songs we sing grow our ability to be more Christ-like in our walk. So, when you sing the songs we're highlighting, it's not just focusing on what you like or maybe don't like about the songs. It's to help you move past your own preferences, into a place where even if you're not crazy about the song, it can still speak to you. For every song you can find something in the song that helps you meet God and grow closer to God. Praise and worship is such an essential element in worship. We want to help expand your connection to God through worship.

III Sunday.

Let me ask you a couple of questions. You know how we roll.

What are people looking for in this world? ? In their lives?

Where do people look, for what they're looking for?

This is what I see as our purpose as a community of faith. As a church. To expand and broaden the understanding and practice of a relationship with God and true salvation. Salvation is more than just getting into heaven. Jesus talked about the abundant life, liberation, an easy yoke, being renewed. A vibrant, meaningful, purpose-filled life. BUT...our purpose-filled, meaningful life has to be lived in a world full of difficulty, loss, struggle, pain, tragedy, conflict, heartache, disappointments, and more.

So, how do we live that 'eternal life begins now' life, in a world that often doesn't feel like it?

We're a church. A gathering of believers, seekers, some skeptics thrown in for good measure. It's a tough world out there. And we want to be a safe place to be brave, so that we can enter into an awareness of the presence of God. And help find those things that can help us deal with the real world. We do a lot of messages and songs about; hope, peace, assurance, confidence, and joy. Because deep down we believe those are the only things that can help us face the realities of the world. And our song today will help us realign our lives to find what we're looking for.

We'll hit the overall message in the chorus of this song that's the heart of the song.

He gave me beauty from ashes, turn my life around

He broke my chains and now I'm dancing on solid ground

For all he has done to save me I will raise my voice

I've got Jesus so I've got joy

Anyone looking for this?

We not only see the work specifically being done, but we see and experience what that specific work will bring into our lives. So, let's break it down.

Going to hit the first verse of our song ***"I've Got Joy"***, then dive into the individual elements of it.

I've got joy in the struggle

I've got peace in the storm

I've got strength in the battle, I don't fear anymore

I'm a child of heaven and my hope is secure

I've got joy cause I've got Jesus

If you noticed the last line was flipped between the chorus and this first verse.

Chorus;; ***I've got Jesus so I've got joy***. Verse; ***I've got joy cause I've got Jesus***. Because they were flipped, and it still works, Jesus and Joy are interchangeable.

So, I'll ask again. **What are you looking for? Where should you look?**

We're going to link together the three major promises found in our song today. This is how we'll finish this series. Unpack some of those specific promises we sang about, what they're rooted in, and how we can live fully in Joy, Peace, and Strength. In very practical and real world ways.

How do we dance, raise our voice, in the midst of the difficulties of life?

How do we get to that place where we experience Joy, Peace, Strength?

Three elements (joy, peace, and strength) are born out of struggle.

This will answer the first question about what we're looking for in life, and where they come from.

These things only come from going through the storm. We'll let scripture guide us in growing an understanding of each of these elements. (Joy, Peace, Strength) And just so you know, each of these passages are from the end of the life of Jesus. In the midst of his own struggle and difficulties, Jesus is teaching about and modeling what it looks like to find **Joy, Peace, and Strength**.

1. JOY- We can grow an understanding of joy from this passage.

John 16:16-24. "In a little while you won't see me anymore. But a little while after that, you will see me again."

Some of the disciples asked each other, "What does he mean when he says, 'In a little while you won't see me, but then you will see me,' and 'I am going to the Father'? And what does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand."

Jesus realized they wanted to ask him about it, so he said, "Are you asking yourselves what I meant? I said in a little while you won't see me, but a little while after that you will see me again. I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy. It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world. So you have sorrow now, but I will see

you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy. At that time you won't need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.

"Abundant joy" is often translated as; "complete"- which means the fullness of. Joy primarily comes out of places that often aren't joyful. I don't want to do the whole joy versus happiness thing. I don't think there are universal and strong lines between happiness and joy. We all just want to be happy. And happiness and joy overlap a lot. There is no real clear cut line between them. When does orange become red? When does sadness become depression? We have to be careful of drawing absolute lines. The world just isn't that clear cut. We do understand happiness to be primarily situationally based, and joy to be more internal. In this passage, it does seem joy rises up inside of us out of external circumstances. In the midst of awful things. Through our struggles, suffering, joy can be found. Joy is something given to us that no external event or person can take away. There is something supernatural that can bring joy in the midst of really difficult times. Joy is not a reward after suffering. Joy is born from going through those struggles..

Are you looking for joy?

We can find it in the most painful of times. This is why we can sing.

2. PEACE- Peace will also deal with the questions we asked at the beginning. And where each of these come from. Peace seems to be the primary side effect, benefit, of a life devoted to following Jesus. And peace seems to be what Jesus wants to give us to face the world.

John 14:27. "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

Peace of mind and heart. **Mind**- is the place our decisions are made. **Heart**- is the place our devotion resides. These are the core of who we are. "*Troubled and afraid*" are our natural reactions to the things of the world. Our minds and hearts can be full of "*trouble and afraid*". Let's break each of these down. **Troubled**- (Greek- tarassetho)- inner agitation, shaking, unsettled. Picture your washing machine is unbalanced. Even better. Have you ever seen them put a cinder block in a dryer? **Ever feel that way?** That's troubled. **Afraid**- (Greek- phobeo)- we recognize this is the root for phobia. To be paralyzed or seized up. **Do you have any pretty pronounced phobias?** (spiders, any bugs, heights, speaking in public, the dark, etc.) Jesus is telling his disciples, he's leaving them, it's going to be really difficult. But he's going to give them something called peace. They won't find this kind of peace in the world...no matter where they look. And this peace doesn't come from avoiding struggle or difficulty. It comes from going through the difficulty, rather than being saved from it. It's resurrection not resuscitation. Peace does not come from the absence of suffering or being saved from it. TRUE peace comes from God's presence while we are in that suffering.

Are you looking for peace?

We can find peace when our minds and hearts are consumed with things of the world. When we're troubled and afraid. This is why we can sing.

3. STRENGTH- One of the most powerful images of finding strength in struggle, the battles we fight, is from the life of Jesus. But it's not a teaching. It's not Jesus saying; "*Be strong*". It's from his personal struggle, and need for strength in a really difficult moment.

Luke 22:39-43. Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives. There he told them, "Pray that you will not give in to temptation." He walked away, about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him.

Here is a strength born out of facing your fears, difficulties, struggles head on. Strength is given to Jesus. Strength is strengthened through struggle. This is the power of 'friction'. Not only do you gain something you didn't have, but you've grown because you had to go through that thing. Actually going through difficulty strengthens us. Strength is found in how Jesus found strength.

And it's from this account of Jesus we can sing this verse.

***He bore all of my burdens yeah my debt has been paid
Then he said to my dry bones rise above of that grave
He has all of my worship, all the others in praise
I've got joy cause I've got Jesus***

When we sing; "*I've got joy cause I've got Jesus*" we're claiming the strength Jesus was given because we claim Jesus. Strength is not about power or winning. Strength is resilience that's forged through the fire of vulnerability. We have strength THROUGH Jesus who is with us in our tough moments.

Are you looking for strength?

We can be filled with strength when we ask for it in our struggle. This is why we can sing.

IV Challenge.

The truth of this song is that struggle, heartache, difficulties, pain, sorrow, battles, and more ARE NOT THE END OF THE STORY. Whatever you're going through, whatever you're having to face, what's filling your mind and heart, no matter how long you've been in that place, that's not how it has to end. But...you have to want to move out of that place.' To WANT TO accept the Joy, Peace, and Strength that God is wanting to give you.

***I've got joy in the struggle
I've got peace in the storm
I've got strength in the battle, I don't fear anymore
I'm a child of heaven and my hope is secure
I've got joy cause I've got Jesus***

These only come out of the need for them.

Joy comes out of struggle.

Peace comes from the storm.

Strength comes through the battle.

How can you find these things?

Joy, Peace, Strength. Because you have Jesus. And Jesus has you.