

DECEMBER 5TH, 2021

WE BELIEVE

Advent

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IN REAL JOY

“ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”

LUKE 2:8-12 (NLT)

Real joy isn’t a _____ .

“ Even though the fig trees have no blossoms,
and there are no grapes on the vines;
even though the olive crop fails,
and the fields lie empty and barren;
even though the flocks die in the fields,
and the cattle barns are empty,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord!
I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!

HABAKKUK 3:17-18 (NLT)

_____ depends on _____ .

“ Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13 (NLT)

Real joy is a _____ joy.

“ This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ.
I am writing to God’s chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.

1 PETER 1:1 (NLT)

“ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance - an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.
So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.

1 PETER 1:3-6 (NLT)

_____ depends on _____

“ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.
“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”

JOHN 15:4-5 (NLT)

“ I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!”

JOHN 15:11 (NLT)

Real joy is _____ .

“ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity - all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.”

ACTS 2:46-47 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

Real Joy is a mixture of _____ , _____ & _____ .

_____ joy.

“ 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!”

NEHEMIAH 8:10 (NLT)

_____ joyful people.

“ So everyone who had returned from captivity lived in these shelters during the festival, and they were all filled with great joy! The Israelites had not celebrated like this since the days of Joshua son of Nun.

NEHEMIAH 8:17 (NLT)

DISCUSSION Questions:

- 1 - Why are children so easily joyful and the older we get many people get more and more grumpy?
Do your circumstances dictate your mood? How?
- 2 - In what environment do you experience joy consistently?
Where is it difficult for you to be joyful? Why?
- 3 - Re-read Philippians 4:11-13. Why is it sometimes difficult for people who have plenty to be content?
- 4 - Re- Read 1 Peter 1:1-9. How does faith in Christ give us reasons to be joyful in all circumstances?
- 5 - Read Nehemiah 8. Israel held annual festivals and traditions to celebrate God's blessings. How does Christmas accomplish this today?
- 6 - How can you practice Joy in a new way in your life right now?
Who are the joyful people you can get around to practice Joy together?



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