

# Living Joy on Purpose!

**Habakkuk 3:17-19 (ESV)** *Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, **yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.** GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.*

**Nehemiah 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!**"*

**Joy can only be experienced by faith! We rejoice by faith! We must make ourselves celebrate!**

## I. Faith in what Jesus has done!

**John 14:12 (NASB 2020)** *Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I am going to the Father.*

**John 15:11 (NKJV)** *"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*

**John 16:24 (NKJV)** *Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*

**John 16:33 (NASB 2020)** *These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.**"*

**Jesus is Praying**

**John 17:13 (NKJV)** *But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, **that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.***

**Joy logically follows when the disciples realize that the life of Christ in them is bringing fruit--something they could never produce in their own strength.**

**Romans 15:13 (NASB 2020)** *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace **in believing,** so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things, there is no law.*

## II. Joy is the source of strength

**Nehemiah 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!**"*

**Knowing what God has done and will do is your strength**

**Jesus**

**Hebrews 12:2 (AMP)** *Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

**James 1:2-4 (NASB 2020)** *Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, **so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.***

**Habakkuk 3:17-19 (ESV)** *Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, **yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.** GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places.*

**1 Peter 1:6-9 (NASB 2020)** *In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, **you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.***

## III. We must choose!

**Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things, there is no law.*

Love is a choice, Peace is a choice, kindness, goodness, faithfulness... these are all choices! **JOY IS A CHOICE!**

**Philippians 4:4 (NASB 2020)** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

**Rejoice:** to feel joy or great delight.

**Philippians 4:4 (AMP)** Rejoice in the Lord always [delight, gladden yourselves in Him]; again I say, Rejoice!

**Psalms 37:4 (NASB 2020)** Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

**Galatians 6:9 (NASB 2020)** Let's not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary.

**Rejoicing in the Lord is a Choice!**

**\*\*Psalms 42:5 (NASB 2020)** Why are you in despair, my soul? And why are you restless within me? Wait for God, for I will again praise Him For the help of His presence, my God.

**Psalms 103:2 (NKJV)** Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:

**Romans 14:17 (NASB 2020)** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

#### IV. The Word

**Jeremiah 15:16 (NASB 2020)** Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became a joy to me and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, LORD God of armies.

**Six times in John 14-15, Jesus says "If you keep my commandments"**

**John 14:15 (NKJV)** If you love Me, keep My commandments. - **John 14:21 (NKJV)** He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. - **John 14:23 (NKJV)** Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. - **John 15:7 (NKJV)** If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. - **John 15:10 (NKJV)** If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.