

JOY TO YOUR WORLD

Joy in God's Purpose for You

What has happened to all your joy? (Gal. 4:15)

One element of joy is a settled assurance and confidence in God's presence and purpose...

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. (Psalm 16:11)

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus...who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb. 12:2)

- ***Sometimes God's purpose brings a personal dilemma*** – “Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end.’ ‘How will this be,’ Mary asked the angel, ‘since I am a virgin?’” (Luke 1:29-34)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. (Matt. 1:18-19)

♀ ***Myth-buster: struggle and joy can co-exist*** – “...as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich...” (2 Cor. 6:4-5, 10a)

- ***Your joy in God's purpose requires that you accept your role as His servant*** – “...The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you... For nothing is impossible with God.’ ‘I am the Lord's servant,’ Mary answered. ‘May it be to me as you have said.’” (Luke 1:35a, 37-38)

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave Him the name Jesus. (Matt. 1:24-25)

♀ ***Note: experiencing God's purpose is usually a “one-step-at-a-time” process*** – “I will give you every place where you set your foot...” (Joshua 1:3)

And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...”
(Luke 1:46-47)

But the fruit of the Spirit is...joy... (Gal. 5:22)