



An **EMOTIONAL**
Christmas



A Joyful
CHRISTMAS

Week 3
Devotional №2

“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.” – Romans 15:13

As we look at the Christmas story, we see that joy is the resounding echo that permeates every aspect of the birth of our Lord and Savior. John the Baptist leaped for joy in Elizabeth’s womb; the angel announced great joy to the shepherds in the fields; the Magi saw the star and were filled with joy. Joy is everywhere – if we are willing to look for it.

As we gather with families and friends this Christmas, let’s ask what brings us joy during these holy days of December. Maybe the joy comes from giving gifts or receiving gifts. Perhaps joy is all about gathering with the family around the tree the night before Christmas. Nothing wrong with gifts and gathering; these are good. Singing Christmas songs and decorating roof tops are also good.

But what brings the greatest joy? What is the greatest gift? What is the defining moment? Jesus’ death and resurrection. Jesus gave us eternal life; grace was given freely and joyfully by God through Jesus Christ. But when we think of the greatest joy, the greatest gift, in our lives right now, we see that Jesus death and resurrection, His grace and mercy, gives all of us hope. What greater Christmas gift is there than hope?

In Romans 15:13, Paul reminds us that God is the “God of hope.” Jesus’s birth in that tiny manger while the shepherds watched over their flocks at night gives us hope; Jesus’ death and resurrection gives us hope; Grace and mercy gives us hope. Hope of an everlasting life with God in heaven, where there will no longer be sin or sickness, worry or sorrow. Hope is such a wonderful gift. How can we not be joyful when we think of what Jesus’ birth brought us?

Have someone from the family read this verse:

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” – John 1:14

How can we not be filled with joy to know that God came to earth to be with us, to give us His gospel, the good news that we can all become His children. This is news that we can share with a world that considers Christmas nothing more than another holiday – albeit one that includes gifts and merriment. We can let the entire world know that the true joy of Christmas is the hope that Jesus’ birth gives to all people, every nation, every tribe, and every tongue. The world needs Jesus.

Joy can overcome so many of the world’s plagues and can help us spread His word. If there is joy, share it with the world; if there is hope, share it with the world; if there is grace and mercy, share it with the world.

DISCUSS

- What brings us the most joy this Christmas?
- How can you share that joy with others this Christmas?
- How would you explain the hope of Jesus to a lost world?
- What are some of your favorite Christmas memories?