

Christmas Playlist

Joy to the World

Series Intro: *Leading up to Christmas, we are going to build a Christmas playlist together... Heaven's songs that are full of God's promises and power. There might be some songs on our playlists that the Holy Spirit wants to replace. Maybe He wants to add some that are missing. We love Christmas music at our house. We usually start in October...I know, early. So many of these songs are full of truths from God's Word. Let's build!*

"Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let Earth receive her King."

Christmas Survey:

- People deal with anxiety and stress at Christmas time more than any other time of the year.
- 59% of people define it as chaotic and just want to survive it.
- 47% just wish they could skip Christmas.
- 69% say they experience conflict in their relationships more at Christmas.
- 61% are stressed out about finances at Christmas.

For many the most joyful time of the year has become the most stressful time of the year.

Joy is serious, not frivolous.

- Ironic that the enemy would steal from us the joy of celebrating God's greatest gift to us.
- Not just Christmas playlist, for many it's their life playlist.
- Joy (Rejoice) is used 140 times in the New Testament alone.
- Believers should be the most joyful and happy people on the planet.

Joy is the serious business of Heaven~ C.S. Lewis

Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)

[10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."](#) *[11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.](#)*

Great: *mega, extraordinary, surprising*

Joy/Rejoice: *(CHARA) to experience inner gladness in a high degree; to have pleasurable satisfaction; to be delighted. Great happiness.*

- At Christmas, the business of Heaven invaded the business of Earth.
- Aren't you glad Jesus got into our business?? Good news! Great Joy! All people!
 - o **Savior**- the one who saves us from the power and punishment of sin to a relationship with God. From an eternity in hell; to an eternity in Heaven.
 - o **Messiah**- anointed/chosen one. Burden moving, yoke destroying power of God.

Luke 4:17-21 (NIV)

and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."^[a] ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

- THIS is Good News and cause for Great Joy!!

Joy is essential, not optional.

Nehemiah 8:10

The Joy of the Lord is your strength!

- If the Joy of the Lord is our strength, then joy is essential to our playlist. (Nat King Cole Christmas Song- essential at our house)
- Our spiritual load-bearing capacity is in direct proportion to our joy level.
- The Lord doesn't give a shallow happiness that melts when faced with adversity. His Joy is our very strength. It weathers the most difficult storms.

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- Joy is a focus before it's a feeling. Jesus didn't find joy in the feeling of hanging on the cross.
- Jesus set Joy before Him. He didn't find joy in the event. He found joy in the guaranteed outcome of the event.
- Don't postpone joy for the destination. You need it to get where you're going! Jesus endured Friday because He saw Sunday. Resurrection Joy is ours!
- **What have you set before you?**
- The source of our joy will determine when it runs out.

Joy is continual, not seasonal.

- When Jesus is my joy, it never runs out.
- Seasonal joy is always dependent on circumstances, continual joy is built on Christ.

1 Peter 1:8-9 (TPT)

⁸You love him passionately although you did not see him, but through believing in him you are saturated with an ecstatic joy...

- Peter opens his letter to God's chosen people who were scattered all around the world. Persecuted Christians whose rights, property, and possessions had been taken. They were separated from their families and their future was unclear.
- BUT their joy had not been taken. Why? Because Jesus was their joy. And since no one could take Jesus, no one could take their joy.
- Their joy became contagious causing the Kingdom to be extended all over the region.

Can death take your joy? No, because Jesus is greater than death.

Can failure take your joy? No, because Jesus is greater than your sin.

Can betrayal take your joy? No, because Jesus will never leave you.

Can sickness take your joy? No, because God has promised— whether on this side of the grave or the other—to heal you.

Can disappointment take your joy? No, because though your plan may not work out, but you know God's plan will.

John 16:22b (TPT)

And then your hearts will burst with joy, with no one being able to take it from you!

Joy is the presence of Someone, not the absence of something.

Psalms 16:11 (NKJV)

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- It's not the absence of problems, it's the presence of someone.
- He didn't say "In your plans there is fullness of joy."
- Jesus gave us access to God's presence. He made the impossible, possible.
- The fullness of Joy lives in believers through the person of the Holy Spirit.
- I'm not asking God for joy. Instead, I'm asking God for wisdom to prioritize my life around His presence. That's where joy is found!
- Joy is more than an emotion I feel. Joy is a person I walk with. (available but not automatic)

Psalms 46:1-7 TPT

"God, you're such a safe and powerful place to find refuge! You're a proven help in time of trouble— more than enough and always available whenever I need you. So we will

never fear even if every structure of support were to crumble away. We will not fear even when the earth quakes and shakes, moving mountains and casting them into the sea. For the raging roar of stormy winds and crashing waves cannot erode our faith in you. Pause in his presence God has a constantly flowing river whose sparkling streams bring joy and delight to his people. His river flows right through the city of God Most High, into his holy dwelling places. God is in the midst of his city, secure and never shaken. At daybreak his help will be seen with the appearing of the dawn. When the nations are in uproar with their tottering kingdoms, God simply raises his voice, and the earth begins to disintegrate before him. Here he comes! The Commander! The mighty Lord of Angel Armies is on our side! The God of Jacob fights for us! Pause in his presence”

“Let every heart prepare Him room.”

- *Fix your eyes on Jesus today as your source of Joy. Get joy back.*
- *Prepare Him room this Christmas.*