

A night scene from a forest. In the center, a bright star with a cross-shaped lens flare shines in a dark blue, starry sky. Below the star, a thatched roof of a building is visible, illuminated with a warm, golden light. The foreground is dark, showing the silhouettes of trees and a thatched roof structure. The overall mood is serene and mystical.

The

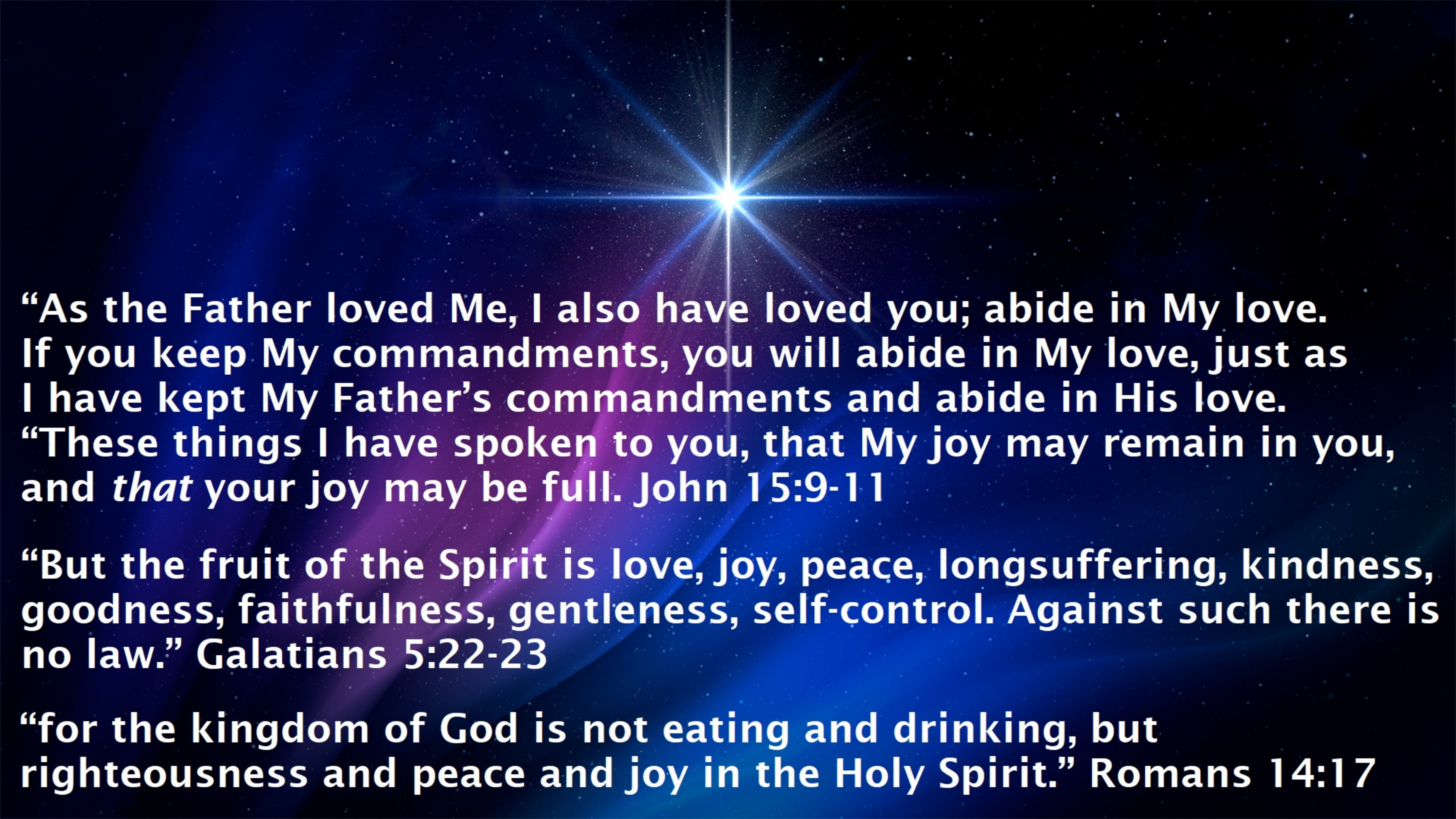
Joy

of the

Lord

3 Avenues to experiencing the joy of the Lord

1. Find true joy in a relationship with Jesus Christ where you can experience life as it was designed to be lived.




“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 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.

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full. John 15:9-11

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23

“for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” Romans 14:17



“And Nehemiah, who *was* the governor, Ezra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day *is* holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep.” For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this* day *is* holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

Nehemiah 9:9-11

A night sky with a bright starburst in the center, emitting rays of light. The sky is dark blue and purple, with many small stars. In the foreground, there is a silhouette of a city on a hill, with palm trees on either side. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric.

**“If you have no joy, there’s a leak in your
Christianity somewhere.” -Billy Sunday**

3 Avenues to experiencing the joy of the Lord

1. Find true joy in a relationship with Jesus Christ where you can experience life as it was designed to be lived.
2. Discover the fullness of the joy of the Lord in your life by yielding to the Lord's will.

Example: Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”

But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”



Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

And the angel answered and said to her, “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.*”

Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Example: The Shepherds (Luke 2:8-15)

“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”



Example: The Wise Men (Matthew 2:9-12)

“When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”



**“The Lord gives his people perpetual joy
when they walk in obedience to him.”**

Dwight L. Moody

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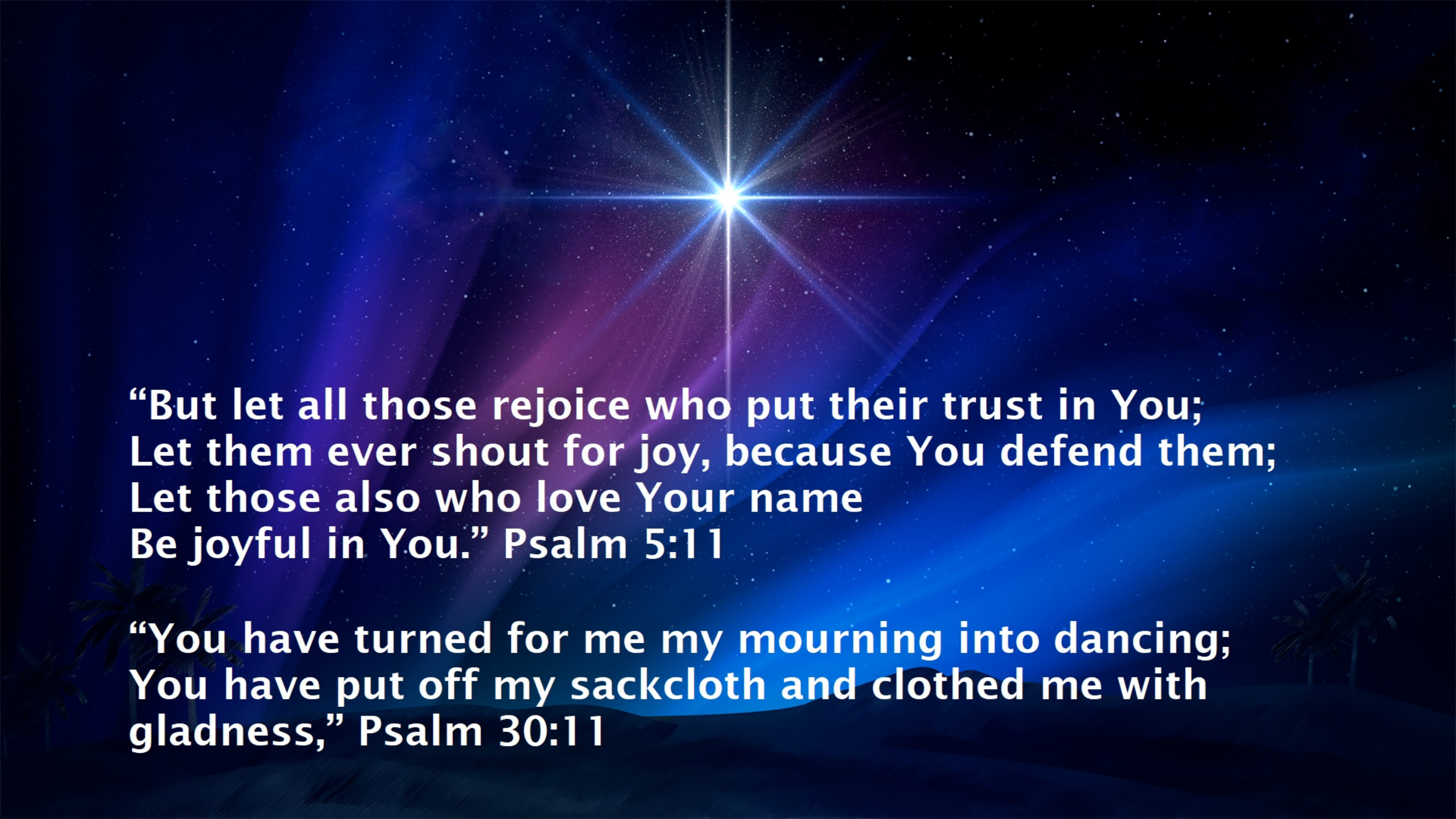
1. Find true joy in a relationship with Jesus Christ where you can experience life as it was designed to be lived.
2. Discover the fullness of the joy of the Lord in your life by yielding to the Lord's will.
3. You can practice joy by recognizing and celebrating the goodness of God in your life in Christ.



“Rejoice always” 1 Thessalonians 5:16


“Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.” Philippians 3:1

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”
Philippians 4:4**



**“But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You;
Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them;
Let those also who love Your name
Be joyful in You.” Psalm 5:11**

**“You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with
gladness,” Psalm 30:11**

A bright starburst of light is centered in the upper half of the image, set against a dark blue and purple space background with a subtle nebula-like pattern. The light radiates outwards, creating a cross-like shape with soft, glowing edges. The overall atmosphere is serene and celestial.

**“Break forth into joy, sing together,
You waste places of Jerusalem!
For the Lord has comforted His people,
He has redeemed Jerusalem.” Isaiah 52:9**

**“Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming
and I will dwell in your midst,” says the Lord.” Zechariah 2:10**