



Elf - The Joy of Christmas

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At this point in the Advent season, many are experiencing the Christmas blues. They just want to get through to Christmas Day. Many will arrive at the manger tired, disappointed and worn out. They have lost the joy of Christmas.

*“There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and **joyful event** that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master.”*
Luke 2:8-11 (MSG)

What is joy? Joy is the inner confidence and outward characteristic that come from knowing God. Joy is not dependent on your situation or your circumstances.

The joy of Christmas is captured in . . .

- The Excitement of “I Know Him!”

In the movie, Buddy the Elf is excited because he knows the real Santa.

“And then I found one inscribed, TO THE GOD NOBODY KNOWS. I'm here to introduce you to this God so you can worship intelligently, know who you're dealing with.” Acts 7:23 (Message)

“Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, revel in him!” Phil. 4:4 (Message)

1. How well do you know Jesus?

2. Are you excited to experience Jesus in a fresh new way this Christmas?

- **The Experience of Christmas Cheer**

The joy of Christmas is fueled by cheer - cheering others up and on and being cheered yourself.

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is by singing loud for all to hear!”

-Buddy the Elf

“I've told you all this so that trusting me, you will be unshakable and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world.” John 16:33 (Message)

3. How are you keeping yourself cheered during the Advent season?

4. Who can you cheer up and on during this season? How?

- **The Expectation of Believe**

The joy of Christmas is fueled by belief and expectation. The expectation of receiving all the Jesus has for you.

“Jesus said, ‘So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.’”

John 20:29 (Message)

5. What are your expectations of Jesus in this season of Advent?

6. Do you believe that you can experience Jesus in a new, fresh way this Christmas if you ask Him?