

**•For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:7**

**•Joy. Everyone wants it. Everyone promises it. But can anyone deliver it?**

•Everyone is looking for joy. Marketing companies know this. Every commercial promises the same product: joy. Want some joy? Buy our hand cream. Want some joy? Sleep on this mattress. Want some joy? Eat at this restaurant, drive this car, wear this dress. *Every commercial portrays the image of a joy-filled person.*

**•“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete” John 15:11**

**•Joy is the weapon we use to fight the battles that you are thrust in or are thrust upon you**

**• You shall go out with joy. Isaiah 55:12**

**•Every morning say, “Today, I will go out with joy.”**

**•The joy of the Lord is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10**

**•Understanding that joy produces strength, which explains why your joy is the Devil’s primary target.**

•When you lose your joy you lose your strength, and he wins!

## **☑ Stubborn Joy**

•*Stubborn- having or showing dogged determination not to change one's attitude or position on something, especially in spite of good arguments or reasons to do so.*

•*Man and Airplane challenge.*

## **☑ 2 ways to live out stubborn joy**

**•Rejoice when it makes no sense - always!**

**•Rejoice in the Lord always. Philippians 4:4**

•Look for the place to offer praise where no one has before. *Has anyone praised you from this place before?*

•has anyone praised from this place before? Praise square inch by square inch- where is your square inch? Praise in The darkest place - proclaim to the darkness that it will not win!

**•Remain suspicious that God is up to something good.**

• *Gen 50:20 - You thought evil. God planned good!*

•*What's good? What's bad? Judge nothing before it's time.*

•*Man who paid pastor to change vows- When you get to me and the part where I'm to promise to 'love, honor and obey' and 'forsaking all others, be faithful to her forever,'*

*I'd appreciate it if you'd just leave that part out.” Gave preacher \$100 and walked away.*

*•The pastor looked the young man in the eye and said, "Will you promise to prostrate yourself before her, obey her every command and wish, serve her breakfast in bed every morning of your life, and swear eternally before God and your lovely wife that you will not ever even look at another woman, as long as you both shall live?" WHAT?! “**She made me a better offer!**”*

### **•JESUS HAS MADE A BETTER OFFER!**

*•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, you know God’s plan will.*

### **☑ Have you buried your joy?**

*•What has been taken from you? Your health? Your house? Have you buried a dream? Have you buried a marriage? Buried a friend? **As you look at these burial plots of life, is your joy buried there, too?***

**•Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. Psalms 30:5**

•Weeping endures for the night. Alaska...

**•You serve a God who can resurrect it!**

*•Story of husband wife and her mother went to Israel and she died...I heard of a man who was buried over here and got back up. I can't take that chance!*

### **☑ Sing or Thud**

• "When a potter bakes a pot he checks it by pulling it out of the [furnace] and thumping it. If it 'sings,' it's ready. If it 'thuds,' it's put back in.

### **•Character, faith is also checked...**

•Thumps trigger the worst in us... They aren't big enough to be a crisis, but if you get enough of them, watch out.

**•Do you sing or do you thud?** There’s nothing like a good thump to reveal the level of your joy...

### **•Happy “thump” day...**

**•2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. James 1:2-3**

•The word count is a financial term, and it means “to evaluate.” When James says to “count it all joy,” he encourages his readers to evaluate the way they look at trials.

*•Rush first in his grade to go to principals office multiple times.*

•As you praise, Just give God praise for each finger. Then your toes.

•This trial isn't taking something out of me. It's putting something IN ME!

•You start testifying before you've got a testimony.

*•20Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. 21When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. John 16:20-22*

•Jesus left it all. Jesus lost it all. But Jesus Got it ALL back and then some. for the JOY.