

ADVENT CONSPIRACY: GENEROSITY OF JOY

Sermon Series : For the Kingdom

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Date : December 16, 2018

"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." (Luke 2:9-11)

Video: [Word Study: Chara - "Joy" by The Bible Project](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvOhQTuD2e0)
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1. Joy is "In"

Phil 4:4; Ps 105:43; Isa 51:11; Est 9:22; Ps 20:5; Acts 8:6-8

1.1 Joy is in Gratitude (Luke 22:19)

"**CHAR**" = Joy

"**CHARis**" = Gift

"**CHARisma**" = Grace

"**EuCHARist**eo" = Thanks

To understand what "rejoice always" means, this phrase must be placed in its full biblical context or it will be an impossible, cruel command. God did not just say to rejoice always. He said, "Rejoice in the Lord always." (C.S. Lewis)

1.2 Joy is in the little things (Ecc 2:24-26)

1.3 Joy is in the Prodigal (Luke 15:7 NLT)

1.4 Joy is in The Holy Spirit (Rom 14:17 NIV)

"The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever!"

2. Joy is "Because"

Hebrews 10:34

2.1 Because It Connects to More (Jas 1:2 NLT; Hebrews 12:2 NIV)

2.2 Because it Increases our strength (Neh 8:10)

2.3 Because it Overflows to hope (Rom 15:13; 2 Cor 8:2)

3. Joy is "Even Though"

1 Pet 1:6; 2 Cor 6:10; 7:4.

QUESTIONS

1. What is joy? (What Bible passages come to mind?)
2. Have you ever experience a "breakthrough of joy"? Share the story. How did God work?
3. What habits/disciplines/practices to you employ to maintain joy in your life?
4. Where would you like joy to break into your life? Take time to pray for each other to experience joy.