

# WELCOME

*“The Joy of the Lord is  
my Strength”*

**Nehemiah 8:10**

Scripture Reading: John 15:11 (p902)

# TRUE JOY

Translation: **ESV**  
Unless Otherwise Noted

## True Joy

# Our Model For Joy ... JESUS

Jesus desires that HIS joy (during his ministry) be within us (**John 15:11** p902). - how could he have this joy?

**Isaiah 53:3** (p613) "He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief."

**Luke 9:58** (p868) "... the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."



How can a man who experienced an abundance of sorrows/griefs ... possibly possess joy?

- It is really centered on our greatest/most precious relationship: with the Lord. Our 3 major points ...

1. Joy of God's Salvation
2. Joy in Upright Living
3. Joy Despite Circumstances

## True Joy

# Joy of God's Salvation

Salvation, at its heart, is about being ONE with God. Sin separates ... salvation reunites; we are delivered/safe.



In Jesus' case, he was *always* one with the Father, and therefore could be joyful during a ministry full of hardship, rejection, and grief.

Jesus could still be 'a man of sorrows' and yet have joy ... His sorrows/griefs didn't define him.

### Other Examples:

- Ethiopian Eunuch went on his way rejoicing (**Acts 8:39** p917)
- Philippian Jailor and family rejoiced (**Acts 16:33-34** p925)
- Rejoicing in heaven over repentant sinner (**Luke 15:10** p874)
- Parables of lost things (**Luke 15:1-32** p874-5); JOY is the end result when something or someone is found



## True Joy

### Restoration Plea From David

**Psalm 51:1-4, 9-12** (p474)

- David's sin involved murder, which was to cover up his previous sin of fornication with Bathsheba.
- Now the world paints a picture of participating in unholy sexual activity as joy, but it really is ... gratification (it's not joy at all).
- Gratification is satisfying an appetite ... a lust. This is how the Bible uses the word. And its satisfaction is short-lived.



In sinning, David threw away his **joy** and replaced it with satisfying his **lust**.

- And many people today have an insatiable appetite for the latter thinking it will achieve true joy.
- When confronted with his sin, David completely broke down, and begged God to have his joy in Him restored (**verse 12**).

True Joy

**Note How  
Desperately David  
Wanted Joy In His  
Salvation Back**

**John 15:11 (p902)**

**“These things I have spoken to  
you, that my joy may be in you,  
and that your joy may be full.”**



## True Joy

# Joy in Upright Living

**Psalm 97:11-12** (p500) “Light is sown for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!”

- As mentioned, the world tells us there is joy in practicing sin.
- Homicide program with Lt Joe Kenda. Promotional Ad says: “There are 3 pillars to murder: money, sex, and revenge.” (can fit murder motive into one or more of those categories)



What’s interesting is that the world tells us that joy is to be had in all three of these.

- This is the world’s message, and it has moved some to take a life in order to obtain it. - **it’s all a lie**
- God’s message: **LIVING UPRIGHTLY is what brings true joy.**

**John 10:10** (p896) “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

## True Joy

**John 10:10** (p896) “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

In context, Jesus is equating the current Jewish religious leaders with his use of ‘thief’ – they were the ones who were hurting the sheep.



But similarly, there is much Satan has put in front of our faces, in our homes, in our workplaces that look attractive for how we live our lives.

- But these steal from us, and kill and destroy us.

***The Abundant Life/Life to the Full ...***

**1 Peter 3:8-12** (p1015)

- Is your desire to ‘**LOVE life**’ ... To ‘**see GOOD days?**’
- Then live as Peter described; and also **1 Peter 1:14-16** (p1014).

***If We Live THIS Way, We Will Have True Joy***

## True Joy

### Joy Despite Circumstances

We often measure joy by means of events in our favor.



But if we do this, then our ability to be joyous is totally dependent on OUTSIDE sources.



But when we read the Bible, we see that true joy is a decision ... we choose to be so.

**Philippians 4:4** (p982) **“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.”** - imperative statement; it’s a command  
- we can therefore do this ... “always”

**Phil 4:11-13** (p982) **“... I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”**

## True Joy

### Paul’s Secret ...

His strength to be content in any situation of life and difficulty in his ministry, came from Christ.



Remember: Christ is our model for joy, which begins with a loving divine relationship (**Jn 15:9-11** p902).

**Proverbs 16:20** (p539) **“Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.”**

- Both of these thoughts go together: if we trust in God, we will give careful thought to His word.
- And we will be blessed (joyous) and prosperous if we do so.
- In speaking of these blessings ...

**John Gill – Biblical Commentator**

“... he is kept in perfect peace; he is in the utmost safety, is like Mount Zion, that can never be removed.”

## True Joy

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### Can We Employ Paul's Secret?

Can we be content in any situation of life and in our service to Christ?

- **COVID-19**
- **Loss of Loved Ones**
- **Unemployment/\$\$**
- **Law Enforcement Distrust**
- **Relationship Issues**
- **Mental Health/Depression**



We serve a living God.

We serve a God who has admonished us to trust Him, continue to serve Him, to give thanks to Him in all circumstances (**1 Thess 5:18** p988), and to finish our race (**1 Cor 9:24-27** p957).

- There are things we CANNOT control ... but the things we CAN control, we are to be spiritually disciplined in those very things, and remain steadfast in our JOY because we are still in God.

## True Joy

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### Admonition

**Do Not Let The World Steal Your Joy!**

**Do Not Let SATAN Your Joy!**

- Joy is important to our TESTIMONY
- If we as Christians are miserable, the people around us will not see Christianity as characteristic of the Good News we profess.
- Satan wants this testimony removed
- So let's encourage one another in having:
  1. Joy in God's Salvation
  2. Joy in Upright Living
  3. Joy Despite Circumstances

