

JOY AND STRENGTH IN THE LORD

NEHEMIAH 8:8-12, PSALMS 16:11

Sad to say, many people disassociate joy and gladness from the church. They think of religion kind of like health food, it may not taste good but it's good for you. But the bible declares that in God's presence is fullness of joy; and at His right hand are pleasures forever. If we as His people are to reflect his image, then we must become joyous people.

1. The joy of the Lord is not the joy of _____.

Psalms 13:5-6 (NKJV) *But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. ⁶ I will sing to the Lord, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.*

The joy of the Lord is something that we who know the Lord can enjoy in spite of circumstances.

Philippians 4:4 (NKJV) *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*

2. The joy of the Lord comes out of _____.

2 Corinthians 6:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.*

The proper balance is to take our sins seriously and to truly repent of them, but then to put our focus back on Christ and our position in Him by grace.

3. The joy of the Lord is God's _____.

Psalms 32:11 (NKJV) *Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!*

After you have confessed your sins, rejoice that God has forgiven all your sins in Christ and that He has pledged His covenant Love to you for all eternity.

4. The joy of the Lord comes from _____ God's Word.

2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV) *as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,*

The bible tells us that God "has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory and excellence".

5. The joy of the Lord is _____.

Zephaniah 3:17 (NKJV) *The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."*

All of God's attributes as revealed in scripture, whether His righteousness, His justice, His holiness, His sovereignty, or His love, should fill us with joy as we meditate on them.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ways to Give: Online at vcctracy.org or text message at 209-900-8368.

Prayer Every Sunday Morning: 9:15 - 9:45am - in the Sanctuary.

Dining With The Community

Feeding the Hungry: 2nd Wednesday of every month.

Travel Size Toiletries: We are collecting these for distribution to the homeless.

WOV Event - Movie Night: 07/15/17 - “ War Room” & “The Shack”. First movie starts at 4:00pm with the second to follow immediately after.

Lunch At The Library: 05/31/17-07/28/17 Monday thru Fridays 12:00 – 1:00pm. Stop by the Tracy Library for free meals this Summer. For Children and Teens 2-18 years old. Call 1(866) 805-READ for more information.

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