**Unspeakable Joy – Christmas 2022**

**Enduring Joy: Part 1**

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# SERMON DESCRIPTION

The joy of the Lord is incredibly impactful and has the ability to carry you through your darkest days.

# SERMON QUESTIONS & OBJECTIVES

1. What do they need to know?
* The joy set before the people of God is enduring into eternity.
1. Why do they need to know it?
* The joy of the Lord is the fruit of the Spirit.

1. How should we apply it?
* Joy is produced within the believer.

# OPENING LINE

***Of all the things that the Father could have set before Jesus, He chose joy.***

# INTRODUCTION OF THE SERMON

It is the joy of the Lord that allows us to grow through some of the darkest seasons of life.

Does anyone remember the song by Doris Day, *“Whatever Will Be, Will Be Qué Será, Será”*

Part of the song’s lyrics are as follows:

Qué será, será
Whatever will be, will be
The future's not ours to see
Qué será, será
What will be, will be.

Jesus did not write that song (lol). God is about the future; He paints an amazing picture for us.

# CENTRAL TRUTH

**“Joy is a Spirit-given expression that flourishes best when times are strenuous, daunting and tough”.**

# MAIN PASSAGES

**Romans 14:17-18**

17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.

**Psalm 16:11**

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Luke 2:10**

…but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.

**Jesus, Founder and Perfecter of Our Faith**

**Hebrews 12:1**

Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside** every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

**Hebrews 12:2**

…**looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, **despising the shame**, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Do Not Grow Weary**

**Hebrews 12:3**

For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

1. Lay aside – get rid of the parasitic sins and spiritual fat
2. Looking unto Jesus – study how He ran the race of life
3. The joy that is set – do not lose sight of where you are going
4. Despising the shame – minimize the pain
5. The right hand of God – honour and glory are the prize.

# TRANSITION STATEMENT

***Joy is the supernatural adrenaline that pumps through your spiritual body because the joy of the Lord is your strength.***

Joy is something that is manifested in the spiritual realm; it is a supernatural joy that gives spiritual strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

Joy is synonymous with salvation; they go together

**NEW TESTAMENT JOY DEFINED**

**Joy: *Webster's New World Dictionary* defines *joy* as** synonymous with "happy," "glad," and "cheerful." A thesaurus relates it to "exultation," “rapture", "satisfaction" and "pleasure."

*Webster's* specifically defines it as "a very glad feeling; happiness; great pleasure; delight." It also refers to the source or cause of delight.

These definitions only define the expression of the wonderful emotion, but biblical joy is defined as "cheerfulness or calm delight;" however, it has nothing to do with your emotions. Joy is something that is manifested in the spiritual realm; it is a supernatural joy that gives spiritual strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

The Psalmist and the Prophet Isaiah both refer to it as, “the joy of salvation”.

**JOY:**

* **“Chara”:**
* **To be exceedingly glad:**
* Derived from the Greek word “*charis*” which means grace
* Joy is produced by the grace of God
* “Joy is a Spirit-given expression that flourishes best when times are strenuous, daunting and tough”
* Happiness is based on circumstances; joy is dependent of the working of the Holy Spirit within the life of the believer.

**What is Joy? Joy is:**

1. The fruit of Holy Spirit
2. The substance and culture of the Kingdom
3. Spiritual adrenaline
4. A Spirit-given expression.

# MAIN POINTS

1. **Lay aside – get rid of the “parasitic sins” and “spiritual fat”**
2. There are weights and sins that easily distract and trip up the child of God. These things need to be identified and put aside
* For example, things that are put before us, need to be pushed aside
* These things speak to us – they have powerful voices

1. **Weight** – the idea of an encumbrance, a mass, a burden. In other words, something that obstructs and gets in the way, things that are heavy to carry
* These things could not only slow us down but literally to entrap us or cause God’s people to stumble
1. **Beset** – the idea of distraction
* ***We are easily distracted and weighed down.***
1. **Looking unto Jesus – study how He ran the race of life**
2. It is through the example of Christ that we must pattern our lives. He is the greatest example to follow:
* Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith
* Jesus is the founder of our faith
* Jesus is the perfector of our faith – He completes the faith of the believer
1. Christ set aside the pain of the process and set His attention on the joy of being with His Father.
2. **The joy that is set – do not lose sight of where you are going**
3. Of all the things that Father could have set before Jesus as a prize and something to look forward to – He chose JOY; therefore, joy must be of greater value and substance than we realize
4. The Father sets the joy in front of us – eternity and glory
5. “SET”:
* Conveys the idea to set something in front of someone’s eyes
* To give them plain view or site
* To paint a picture of the future
* To set a goal, or a prize, or objective in front of someone
* The concept being the destination
1. ***You will always gravitate towards what you see***
2. ***The joy of the Lord is a picture of a great future.***
3. **Despising the shame – minimize the pain**
	1. Through Jesus’ example we see that His focus was always on the prize which was sitting at the right hand of the Father rather than the pain and shame of the cross.
	2. All His attention was placed on the future glory that would come.
	3. He understood that the process was necessary, but it was not the destination.
	4. DESPISE:
* The idea of looking down on something
* Giving it no regard or credit
* To look at it with contempt and condemnation
* To belittle it as not important
* In other words, it is not the focus of destinations.
	1. The thief desires to steal your joy, faith, peace
	2. Joy theft – the things that steal your joy
* Sin
* Wrong standing with God
* Negative relationships
* Unresolved conflict
* Unforgiveness, resentment
* Perhaps if you lack fullness of joy, you have lost your focus.
	1. You are anointed with the oil of gladness

Hebrews 1:8-9

8 But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." (NKJV)

# QUOTES AND STICKY STATEMENTS

God is always saying, "I have a plan for you".

Joy is supernatural adrenaline.

Joy is contagious; it's like a good virus.

Always saying, "It is what it is" is a defeatist mentality.

God says, "It's never, it is what it is, because I'm the Author of all things".

Joy is an expression of the love of God. It is something that the Holy Spirit develops in us.

As God's people, we are the joy-bringers.

There's joy in the journey.

Joy is the expression of the Holy Spirit.

For the joy that is set before us; do not lose focus on the finish line.

Despising the shame, minimize the pain; I'm not going to live in shame.

What the Father had given the Son – perspective.

God is always saying, "I have a plan for you". (Nehemiah 8:10)

"It is what it is" is a defeatist mentality.

Joy is an expression of the love of God. It is something that the Holy Spirit develops in us.

Joy is the culture of the Kingdom of God.

Lay aside every weight: Get rid of the parasitic sins and spiritual fat.

Looking unto Jesus; how did Jesus run the race that was set before Him? He's the One who's going to get you to the finish line.

# SERMON CONCLUSION - THE CALL TO ACTION

Your future is set – it is glorious!

The right hand of God – honour and Glory are the prize. Focus on the expected rewards.

**Psalm 51:12**

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What painful process do you need to despise in your life at this point?
2. How is the joy of the Lord our strength? What does this look like in real life?
3. Why does the Psalmist speak of the path of life? What does this mean? Can we depend on Holy Spirit to guide us?
4. Why does the enemy of your soul want to rob you of your joy, faith, peace, and righteousness? Explain the outcomes of each one of these if they are taken away from the believer.
5. Why did Jesus talk about the “fulness of joy”? What is the implication of this saying? Is it possible that believers are living substandard to what Christ intended?
6. Do you believe that Christians are anointed with the oil of gladness like Christ? If so, what is the implication to our behaviour and lifestyle?
7. Consider some of the things that you need to despise in your own life today. What has more of your attention than it should?
8. What are some critical things that you would say are either parasitic sins or spiritual fat? What is the action plan to remove them?
9. What can you learn from the life of Jesus? How can you refocus your attention on greater things?
10. What is the picture of the future that God has painted for you? Is this your goal in life?