



#2 – Joy

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Luke 2:8-11

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

What is this great joy?

1 - It's not Happiness

The term happiness is used in the context of mental or emotional states, including positive or pleasant emotions ranging from ... contentment to intense joy.

2 – It's not Denial

3 – It's not based upon circumstances

What is this great joy?

1 – It begins with Salvation through Jesus

Luke 2:10-11

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

2 – It's a fruit of the Holy Spirit

3 – It's Transcendent

Joy in the New Testament is virtually always used to signify a feeling of "happiness" that is based on spiritual realities, and independent of what happens.

Great Joy is the buoyancy that results from the enjoyment of the unchanging privileges we have in God. This allows you to float on top of your sorrows and difficulties. They're still there but they don't pull you under and keep you there. - Tim Keller

2 Cor 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Joy

- inner gladness
- a deep-seated pleasure birthed and energized by the Holy Spirit

Acts 13:52

And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

4 – It's Indestructible

I have called Christmas — and this little book — “the dawning of indestructible joy” because the joy Jesus was bringing into the world was like no other kind in history. Once we have it, it cannot be destroyed. - John Piper

John 16:22

So 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.

Joy often overlaps with sorrow

1 Peter 1:6

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

1 Thessalonians 4:13

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

How do you experience this Great Joy?

1 – You've never experienced this Joy

2 – *You have experienced this Joy*

Disobedience to Christ and your lack of repentance are robbing your joy

Fix your attention on Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-2

... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.