HOPE AND JOY AND PEACE

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Review

Hope is the confident expectation of good that is an anchor for the soul, especially during difficult times. Jesus came to a world that was without God and without hope and brought hope to those who would accept Him as their Savior.

Definition of Joy

An incredible sense of well-being and pleasure derived not from circumstances (happiness comes from happenings), but from a settled sense that all is well in our relationship with our Creator, that we are pleasing to Him and that He has good things in store for us.

Jesus Came to a World Without Hope and Without Joy

Hebrews 2:14&15 (TLB) Since we, God’s children, are human beings – made of flesh and blood – he became flesh and blood too by being born in human form; for only as a human being could he die and in dying break the power of the devil who had the power of death. Only in that way could he deliver those who through fear of death have been living all their lives as slaves to constant dread.

Revelation 1:18 “I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look; I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

Hebrews 2:15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Joy at Jesus’ Birth

Luke 2:41-44 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.”

Luke 2:8-11 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 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. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Matthew 2:19&10(NASB) After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, the rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

Joy at the Resurrection and Ascension

Matthew 28:5-8(NASB) The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. Go quickly and tell His disciple that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.” And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples.

Luke 24:40&41 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”

Luke 24:51&52 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

Is Joy an Important Part of the Christian Life?

Romans 14:17&18 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

Sources of Godly Joy

Romans 15:14 May the God of hope fill you will all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I Peter 1:8&9 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Psalm 16:11(ESV) You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fulness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

I John 1:4-7(NKJV) And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

John 15:10&11”If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

Acts 13:52(NASB) And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22&23a But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

John 16:24(NASB) “Until now you have asked for in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.”

Is Joy Optional

The Greek word translated “joy” is derived from the Greek word translated “rejoice.” To rejoice is essentially to feel or to show joy.

I Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:1(NASB) Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Things to Remember

The joy God wants us to regularly experience is an incredible sense of well-being and pleasure derived not from circumstances, but from a settled sense that all is well in our relationship with our Creator, that we are pleasing to Him and that He has good things in store for us.

Jesus came to a world without God, without hope and without the kind of joy that only comes from a relationship with God.

The announcement of the birth of Jesus brought great joy.

The announcement of the resurrection of Jesus brought great joy.

Being saved brings joy.

Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirt are essentials in the Christian life.

Joy ultimately always comes from God, specifically from being in fellowship with Him with our sins confessed and forgiven.

Joy comes from obedience and being a disciple (one who is being taught to obey).

Joy is one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit.

Joy comes from answered prayer.

Joy is not optional.