



When Jesus Enters Your World

Joy

Luke 2:8-14 (NASB®)

⁸ In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, **I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;** ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² "This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there appeared 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 men with whom He is pleased.**"

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV®)

² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, **who for the joy set before him endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Romans 14:17 (NIV®)

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

I. Experiencing Contentment

1 Timothy 6:6 (NIV®)

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain.

- A. Body – pleasure
- B. Soul – happiness
- C. Spirit – joy

II. Persevering with Joy

- ❖ Our joy is made complete through our willingness to persevere in faith!

2 Corinthians 7:-4 (NIV®)

⁴ I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.

James 1:2-4 (NIV®)

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Acts 13:49-52 (NIV®)

⁴⁹ The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.⁵¹ So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium.⁵² And **the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.**

2 Corinthians 6:1-11 (NIV®)

¹ As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.² For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.³ We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger;⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love;⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;⁸ through glory and honor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors;⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed;¹⁰ **sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;** poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.¹¹ We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you.

A. Maintaining Joy

Luke 8:13 (NIV®)

¹³ Those on the rock are the ones who **receive the word with joy** when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

B. Being Rooted in Christ:

1. Word of God
2. Welcome the Holy Spirit
3. Prayer
4. Fellowship

III. Overcoming Barriers to Joy

Prayer

Heavenly Father, may the joy of the Lord fill my heart. Thank You for Your great expressions of kindness and mercy in my life. Help me to learn to rest in Your great strength, to trust in Your unwavering faithfulness and to hope in the certainty of Your promises. I rejoice in Your truth and the freedom it brings to me. Grant me a willing spirit that I may serve You in righteousness. You alone are worthy of honor, glory, and praise. Let the name of Jesus be lifted high, amen.

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