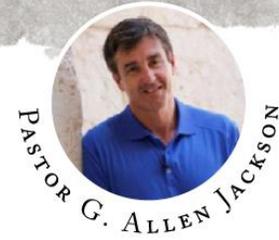


Christmas, A Promise Fulfilled

Joy and Strength

Intend



Luke 2:10-11 (NASB[®])

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, **I bring you good news of great (megas) joy** which will be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

I. Joy Sustains

A. Body, Soul & Spirit

B. Satisfaction

1. Body; pleasure
2. Soul; happiness
3. Spirit; joy

C. Spiritual Choices

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 (NASB[®])

⁴⁷"Because **you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and a glad heart**, for the abundance of all things; ⁴⁸therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you.

Isaiah 35:10 (NASB[®])

¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, With everlasting joy upon their heads. **They will find gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.**

II. Cultivating Joy

A. Filled with Joy & the Holy Spirit

Acts 13:52 (NASB[®])

⁵²And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Romans 14:17 (NASB[®])

¹⁷for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB[®])

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Romans 15:13 (NASB[®])

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

B. Joy Fuels Endurance

2 Corinthians 7:4 (NASB[®])

⁴ Great is my confidence in you; great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.

2 Corinthians 8:1-2 (NIV[®])

¹ And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ² Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

James 1:2-4 (NASB[®])

² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Hebrews 12:2 (NASB[®])

² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

C. The Expression of Joy

Psalms 100:1-3 (NASB[®])

¹ Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. ² Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. ³ Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Psalms 105:43 (NASB[®])

⁴³ And He brought forth His people with joy, His chosen ones with a joyful shout.

Psalms 32:11 (NASB[®])

¹¹ Be glad in the Lord and **rejoice**, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

D. Reasons to Rejoice

Psalms 119:162 (NASB[®])

¹⁶² **I rejoice at Your word**, As one who finds great spoil.

Psalms 118:24 (NASB[®])

²⁴ **This is the day which the Lord has made**; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Matthew 5:11-12 (NASB®)

¹¹ "Blessed are you when *people insult you and persecute you*, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

III. Let's Pray

- ❖ Give expression to joy.
- ❖ A spiritual response to the challenges of your life.
- ❖ Your words matter.
- ❖ Prayer is not a passive response; it is an expression of initiative.
- ❖ A practical way to establish a focus of faith.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we choose to serve You with joy and a glad heart. You have provided great abundance for us. We come before You today rejoicing in Your great strength and mercy. You are our deliverer, our redeemer and the one who secures our future. As we lift our hearts to You may sorrow and sighing flee away. Holy Spirit direct our thoughts to the majesty of Almighty God and his expressions of grace towards us. We pray in the name of our Lord and savior, Jesus, amen.

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