

SERMON NOTES



December 17 - 18, 2016

“God with us brings great joy!”

What is Joy?

1. Joy comes from God.
2. Joy is a choice, not a feeling.
3. Joy is a decision.
4. Joy is the fuse that lights the dynamite of faith.
 - Having joy - your faith is on fire!

Luke 2:10 (NLT)

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.

- Be strong in faith and full of joy!
- Good news will bring great joy!
- Supernatural joy comes from reading God’s word – the Good News.

How to Tap Into Joy:

1. Read God’s word daily.
2. Celebrate God all day.
 - Delight yourself in God.
 - God puts His dream inside you and the dream will come to pass.
 - Find joy in Christ, in all things, and at all times, not in your circumstances.
3. Think good thoughts.
 - Feed off of God, not off your circumstances.
 - God knows exactly what you are going through, your struggles and discouragements.
 - When you are in fear, you cannot receive joy.
 - When you are distracted, you will lose focus and lose your joy.
 - Having joy – you are an overcomer and a victor!

Philippians 4:4-5 (MSG)

⁴⁻⁵ Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, *revel* in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!

- Don't let your circumstances control you. Let joy control you!
- Joy should come from God, not your circumstances or position.
- Focus on God!

Proverbs 15:15 (AMP)

¹⁵ All the days of the afflicted are bad, but a glad heart has a continual feast [regardless of the circumstances].

Habakkuk 3:16 - 19 (KJV)

¹⁶ When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops. ¹⁷ Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls. ¹⁸ Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹ The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

1. Looked within.
2. Looked around.
3. Looked up.
 - Looked up to God as his source and rejoiced.
 - We can keep looking at our failures and mistakes or we can look up to God and have joy!
 - Look up and change your focus.
 - Walk in victory!

How to Rejoice in the Lord in Spite of Your Circumstances and Keep Joy:

1. Focus on God!
 - The past = gratefulness.
 - Think about what you are grateful for.
2. Have God's perspective!
 - The present = God's wisdom.
3. Have God's dream!
 - The future = God's dream.
 - With a dream, you will endure anything and have joy!

Discussion Questions:

1. What is joy?
2. How do you keep joy and rejoice in the Lord in spite of your circumstances?
3. Take Home: Declare daily – “I have strong faith and I am full of joy!”

Resources:

If you would like to look at “**God With Us**” sermon series in more depth, Church On The Rock bookstore has excellent resources available.

