

CHRISTMAS
JOY



Good tidings of
great joy which
will be to all people

Luke 2:10

GOOD NEWS: THE GRACE OF JOY



THE FOUNDATION OF JOY

THE CROSS: THE GREATEST LOVE DEAL OF ALL TIME

- 2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God
- Jesus' righteousness for our sin
- Jesus' right standing and favor with God was imputed to those who believe
- The finished work of the cross is the source of our joy

OUR SOURCE

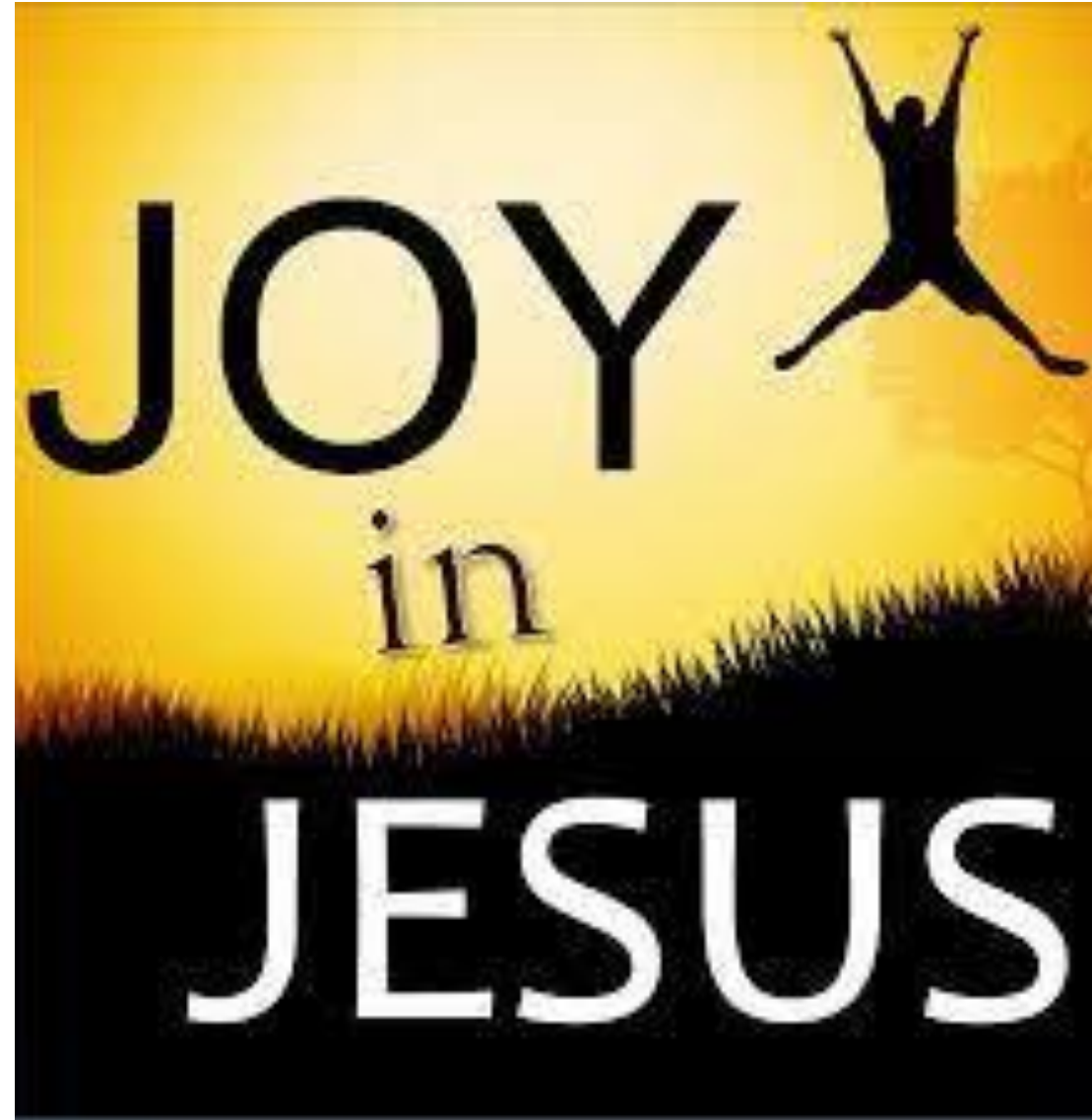
Heb 4:11-12 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience. For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.



(1 Thes. 5:23)

THE JOY OF THE LORD

- Neh 8:10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."
- Joy is the serious business of heaven (C.S.Lewis)
- Joy, not grit, is the hallmark of holy obedience. We need to be light-hearted in what we do to avoid taking ourselves too seriously. It is a cheerful revolt against self and pride (R.Foster)



HOLY SPIRIT JOY FRUIT!

- Joy is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22)
- Being joyful is part of the Christian character
- Joy is the fulfilment of prophecy (Isa.61:3)
- People today really need joy
- Joy is infective
- Joy overcomes depression
- Joy brings freedom
- Joy is humbling



A KINGDOM OF JOY

- **Rom 14:17** 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.
- A Holy Spirit joy filled life pleases God
- Religion hates joy
- The “spirit of the world” robs people of joy
- Joy is very offensive to many. Why?



THE JESUS JOY ANOINTING

(Heb 1:9) You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy (Psalm 45)

- **Jesus has a unique and permanent anointing**
- **WE are Jesus' body on earth**
- **His anointing is our anointing**



Oil of
Joy

THE SPIRIT IS UPON US FOR FREEDOM, FAVOR, JOY, PRAISE....

- Isa 61:1-3 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor
- This is Jesus' kingdom mandate (Luke 4:18)
- Mandate; An official order or commission to do something

Our Mandate





SEARCHING FOR JOY IN
ALL THE WRONG PLACES

PEOPLE ARE SEARCHING
FOR TRUE JOY

- People are desperate for the source of joy
- A personal relationship with Jesus is the source of real, enduring joy
- Joy and agape love go hand in hand

(John 15:11) I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.



THE JOY, HOLY SPIRIT LINK

- Act 13:50-52 They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their region. So they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit
- The revelation and importance of joy has been lost due to a puritanical religious spirit

LOL

THE PROMISE OF LAUGHTER

**(Gen.17:19) Then God said to Abraham
“Your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and
you will call him Isaac. I will establish my
covenant with him as an everlasting
covenant for his descendants after him”.**

- **Isaac means “He who laughs”**
- **Isaac was the firstborn son of God’s
promise**
- **Isaac is a prophetic type for us – pointing
to the joy of Jesus to come**



LAUGHTER
THERAPY

THE ROACH COACH

Executive, Life & Laughter Coaching

- The world is aware of what a gift laughter and joy is.
- Why aren't we?

LAUGH MORE

- (Psalm 126) When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.
- Many have been overwhelmed with Holy Spirit laughter
- Often tears and laughter go together



Benefits of Laughter

- 1) Stimulates Endorphins
- 2) Reduces Stress Hormones
- 3) Enhances Creativity
- 4) Boosts Anti-Aging Hormones
- 5) Makes Life More Enjoyable

**HOLY SPIRIT JOY =
LAUGHTER**

- Laughter is God's gift
- Laughter is like medicine
- Laughing produces good health
- Laughter attracts people
- Laughter makes one vulnerable in a childlike way

**LAUGHTER
RELEASES
JOY**

If you're feeling down, watch this!



Do take Melissa Rene Warren...

YTI Larry McDougall



EVEN SMILING IS
GOOD FOR YOU