

## THE JOY OF THE LORD

Text: Hebrews 12:1-3

**Key Word:** Joy

**Key Thought:** God Has a Different Basis for His Joy

\*\* A man was taking it easy, lying on the grass and looking up at the clouds. He was identifying shapes when he decided to talk to God.

"God," he said, "how long is a million years?"

God answered, "In my frame of reference, it's about a minute."

The man asked, "God, how much is a million dollars?"

God answered, "To Me, it's a penny."

The man then asked, "God, can I have a penny?"

God said, "In a minute." \*\*

\*\* A middle-aged woman has a heart attack and is taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she has a near death experience

During that experience she sees God and asks if this is it.

God says no and explains that she has another 30 years to live.

Upon her recovery she decides to just stay in the hospital and have a face lift, liposuction, tummy tuck, etc. She even has someone come in and do a manicure, pedicure and change her hair colour.

She figures since she's got another 30 years she might as well make the most of it.

She walks out of the hospital after the last operation and is killed by an ambulance speeding by. She arrives in front of God and complains, "I thought you said I had another 30 years."

God replies, "I didn't recognize you." \*\*

I am the kind of person who loves to laugh. I could go on with many other jokes but that is not the focus of my sermon today. Instead, I would like to take the time allotted to focus upon **"The Joy of the Lord."** During a day of mixed emotions because the walls had been built, the gates restored, the Word of God was read and the people were weeping . . .

*"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.**'"*

*Nehemiah 8: 10*

## So What Is So Different about the Joy of the Lord?

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,  
2. fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. **For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**  
3. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*

*Hebrews 12:1-3*

### I. THE JOY OF SALVATION

There is a significant difference between God’s joy and our joy when it comes to salvation. Our joy comes AFTER salvation.

#### A. Our Joy AFTER Salvation

*“I tell you the truth you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices, you will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.”*

*John 16:20*

One thing I’ll always remember is the day that we gave our lives to the Lord. We came to God in response to an invitation by Pastor Paul Ripley. It felt like the weight of the world been lifted. I recognized the birds singing and even the leaves of the trees appeared more colourful on that Thanksgiving Sunday in 1975. There was an abundant joy that was authentic. I understand today that it was God’s joy because we obeyed His Word and surrendered our lives to follow Him.

“God's peace is joy resting. His joy is peace dancing.”

F. F. Bruce

## I. THE JOY OF SALVATION (Contd.)

### A. Our Joy AFTER Salvation (Contd.)

“Each time we cooperate with God, we take one more giant step forward. Because when God asks us to change, it means that He always has something better to give us - more freedom, greater joy, and greater blessings.”

Joyce Meyer

The joy of the Lord within us begins on the day of our salvation and continues as we trust Him through even the difficult days of our lives. God is good all the time, and all the time God is good.

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*

Romans 8:28

“We can experience joy in adverse circumstances by holding God's benefits in such esteem that the recognition of them and meditation upon them shall overcome all sorrow.”

John Calvin

*“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”*

Romans 8:18

### B. God's Joy PRIOR to Our Salvation

God doesn't become joyful because of something good that has happened. He was joyful prior to these good events taking place. That is why the Bible tells us that it was for the joy that was set before Him that He endured the cross and despised it shame. No one but God could consider the crucifixion with a joyful expectation. It definitely wasn't because the His pain was going to be lessened because He was the Son of God. **It was a joy based upon what was going to happen.**

## I. THE JOY OF SALVATION (Contd.)

### B. God's Joy PRIOR to Our Salvation (Contd.)

Jesus knew that His death, burial and resurrection would begin a new era with a New Testament that is called the Gospel or the Good News. It was prophesied to take place almost 700 years before the Messiah came according to Isaiah. This is the portion of the scroll that was handed to Jesus (not by coincidence) when He went to the synagogue in Nazareth and stood and read this.

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me because the LORD has anointed me to preach **good news** to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for prisoners, 2. To proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor. And the day of vengeance of our God to comfort all who mourn.”*

*Isaiah 61:1-2*

The Good News (Heb. - Bisorah) comes from the Hebrew root word “**basar**” which means “**cheerful of joyful.**” The word “**bisorah**” also means “**rosy**” like the way our cheeks turn when we are facing a cold wind. It also means “**fresh**” because it never becomes stale or old. Jesus knew that Gospel would tell the Good News to the world. He knew it would be new every morning; fresh to our body in such a way that we display it through our “**rosy-cheeks.**”

“I was delivered from the burden that had so heavily suppressed me. The spirit of mourning was taken from me, and I knew what it was to truly rejoice in God my Savior.”

[George Whitefield](#)

There is one other important aspect of our salvation that we should never overlook.

*“for sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace . . . 22. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.”*

*Romans 6:14, 22*

## I. THE JOY OF SALVATION (Contd.)

### B. God's Joy PRIOR to Our Salvation (Contd.)

Jesus knew that He was going to die not just to forgive us of our sin but also to give us the power to be set free from the way sin had made us a slave onto its actions.

*“I put this in human terms because you were weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.”*

*Romans 6:19*

“While sin’s penalty no longer reigns over us, we struggle every day with its power. Sin pulls relentlessly at the hem of our garments, and leans against us slightly, yet persistently, until we bow under its enduring weight. This is the power of sin.”

Dave Delaney  
First Baptist Church  
Long Beach, CA

*“When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God.*

*11 So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.”*

*12. Do not let sin control the way you live; [do not let sin reign in your body] do not give in to sinful desires.*

*Romans 6:10,11,12  
NLT*

## I. THE JOY OF SALVATION (Contd.)

### B. God's Joy PRIOR to Our Salvation (Contd.)

\*\*\* There is a plant with a white flower called a Samphire which grows only on cliffs near the sea in the United Kingdom. Although it grows near the salt waves, it is never found on any part of a cliff which can be engulfed by the tide.

On one occasion, a party of shipwrecked sailors that were flung ashore were struggling up the face of the steep rocks were becoming afraid of the advancing tide overtaking them. One of their number glanced upward and saw the Samphire, growing richly. Instantly he raised a shout of joy, assuring his companions that they were now in safety. The sea would come near this spot, and perhaps cast up its spray, but it would never reach them.

This is a great illustration of the position of a soul in Christ; that is justified and united to Him. We may be in full sight of the world's threatening and angry waves; but we are perfectly safe, and cannot be overwhelmed. \*\*\*

*"And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus."*

*Ephesians 2:6*

No wonder Jesus was and still is today so joyful of the salvation that He is offered to this world.

Do you recognize that you were born into this world as a sinner? Have you been told that only Jesus can forgive you of your sin and give you the power to live a life pleasing to Him? Have you accepted Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour before it's too late?

Before we offer the communion I would like us to take a moment and allow the Holy Spirit search our hearts. Let Him bring to your attention anything that needs to be dealt with. It is time to enter into the Joy of the LORD.

C:\My Documents\WPWin(X7)\Sermons.2017\Joy\Hebrews 12\_1.3.wpd

Date: Dec 3/17

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30Am

Song: Trading My Sorrows - Dm

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**Text: Hebrews 12:1-3**

**Key Word:** Joy

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*Nehemiah 8: 10*

**So What Is So Different about the Joy of the Lord?**

*Hebrews 12:1-3*

### **I. THE JOY OF SALVATION**

**A. Our Joy AFTER Salvation** - *John 16:20; Romans 8:28; Romans 8:18*

**B. God's Joy PRIOR to Our Salvation**

**It was a joy based upon what was going to happen.**

*Isaiah 61:1-2; Romans 6:14, 22; Romans 6:19; Romans 6:10,11,12 NLT; Ephesians 2:6*