

NEW COVENANT CHURCH

Joy of the Lord STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalm 16:11

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Psalm 16:11 NIV

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Isaiah 9:2-4 (also spoken by Jesus Matthew 4:15-17)

The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation And increased its joy; They rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

- Jesus is the LIGHT that shined in darkness then and now.
- He is the one who multiplies and brings joy.
- It like the joy of harvesting or reaping good from what you have sown.

- It is a unique characteristic of the Lord to provide joy and going from strength to strength.
- JOY is not an emotion like happiness.
- Joy is the knowledge and disposition of being in the will of God

Hebrew Definitions of Joy

אַמְחָה: śimḥâ - Gladness, glad result,

משושי: māśôś - Exultation, rejoicing

גיל: gîl - Joyful; rejoice; To spin round (under the influence of a strong emotion)

"... As men **rejoice** when they divide the spoil." (Isaiah 9:3)

When Joy Happens

Nehemiah 12:43

Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off.

Philippians 1:12, But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Philippians 1:15, Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; 17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

Philippians 1:18, What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice. 19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Philippians 1:20, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

Philippians 1:23, For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. 25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,

- The Apostle Paul was not someone you would want to try to impress with your story of challenge.
- If anyone had a reason NOT to have joy and rejoicing, it was Paul.
- Paul wrote to the Philippians from prison.

Rejoicing is Your Strength to Strength

Philippians 3:1 (NLT)

Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.

The Four Essentials to Joyful Living

- 1. PERSPECTIVE
- 2. PRIORITY
- 3. POWER
- 4. PURPOSE