

Good News of Great Joy

God Promises Joy

What is the message of Christmas? It is the birth of the One who promised peace, joy and love. Ravi Zacharias

The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. ³ He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God ⁴ Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; ⁵ make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, ⁶ with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn— shout for joy before the LORD, the King Psalm 98

Joy is an emotion we experience founded on a settled confidence in the character, activities and sovereignty of God that leads to a declaration of His praise.

Killjoys

- Heartache
- Conflict
- Worry
- Self-Absorption
- Sin

That is the attraction of sin. We sin because it is pleasurable. The enticement of sin is what we think will make us happy. We think it will give us joy and personal fulfillment. But it merely gives us guilt which undermines and destroys authentic joy. R.C. Sproul

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⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2

You don't have to be alone in your hurt! Comfort is yours. Joy is an option. And it's all been made possible by your Saviour. He went without comfort so you might have it. He postponed joy so you might share in it. He willingly chose isolation so you might never be alone in your hurt and sorrow. Joni Eareckson Tada

We were Christ's joy as He died on the cross so He could be our joy through all heartache and pain.

It is often the case, as all the saints know, that fellowship with the Father and the Son is most vivid and sweet, and Christian joy is greatest, when the cross is heaviest. J.I. Packer

God is our Joy

The key to Christian living is a thirst and hunger for God. And one of the main reasons people do not understand or experience the sovereignty of grace and the way it works through the awakening of sovereign joy is that their hunger and thirst for God is too small. John Piper

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15