



"The Gift of Joy"

Luke 1
December 14, 2025

THE BIG IDEA: Joy is simply the **work** of God in the soul of a person who chooses to **make much** of God and be **obedient** to what He asks of them. True joy is impossible to find apart from **Jesus**.

Luke 1:46–55 (ESV)

⁴⁶ And Mary said,
 "My soul **magnifies** the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit **rejoices** in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
 For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
 and exalted those of humble estate;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and the rich he has sent away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,
 to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Biblical "Joy"

- Joy is deeper and more **enduring** than circumstantial happiness.
- We were **made** for joy.
- Joy is received and experienced when we **magnify** God.
- To magnify is to zoom in and make **large**.

- Internally, spiritually, this is to **choose** something or someone and intentionally give them **prominence** in our lives!
- My Problem: my **sin** has cut me off from God, the source of Joy.
 - My response (and that of all humans) is to choose **something else** to magnify, and I wind up ultimately magnifying **self**.

Caesar: He is the emperor of one of the largest and most sophisticated kingdoms in history

Mary: She is a teenage girl, having angelic visitations; bearing 'Son of God' whose kingdom will last forever; Her world is being rocked!

Our Failed Attempts at Joy:

- ✓ **Achievement** magnification
- ✓ **Problem** magnification
- ✓ **Personal preference** magnification
- ✓ All of these at their core: **self**-magnification

The Secret to Joy: 'My soul **magnifies the Lord**, and my spirit **rejoices in God my Savior**.'

- ✓ Keeps perspective on what is **temporary** and what is **eternal**.
- ✓ God's joy: the only **lasting** joy available in the universe
- ✓ We will spend our lives magnifying **God** or **self** in the search for joy
- ✓ Joy is the fruit of the Spirit (a **work** of God) in a soul that magnifies the Lord.
 - You choose to **make more of God** than of yourself (John 3:30)
 - You choose **obedience** (Hebrews 12:1-3)

"Joy is the serious business of heaven."

- C.S. Lewis
