

FEAR NOT

For God hath not given
us the spirit of **fear**;
but of **power**, and of
love, and of a **sound**
mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

The Kingdom of God is
JOY





- We have been learning that the **Kingdom of God is Righteousness, Peace, and Joy** in the Holy Ghost. Romans 14:17
- In this lesson, we are going to look at the third characteristic of His rule in Kingdom of God – the awesome **JOY** that is always there.
 - Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, **yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:** 1 Peter 1:8

Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!

- Philippians 4:4 -



- In the **Old Testament**, **JOY**, means “gladness or praise.”
 - Thou wilt shew me the path of life: **in thy presence is fulness of joy**; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore. Psalms 16:11
 - For his anger *endureth but* a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but **joy cometh in the morning**. Psalms 30:5
- In the **New Testament**, **JOY**, means basically the same thing, but adds the idea of “cheerfulness or delight.”
 - Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that **your joy may be full**. John 16:24
 - Re**JOY**ice in the Lord always: *and again I say, ReJOYice*. Philippians 4:4

What Makes Your **JOY**ful?

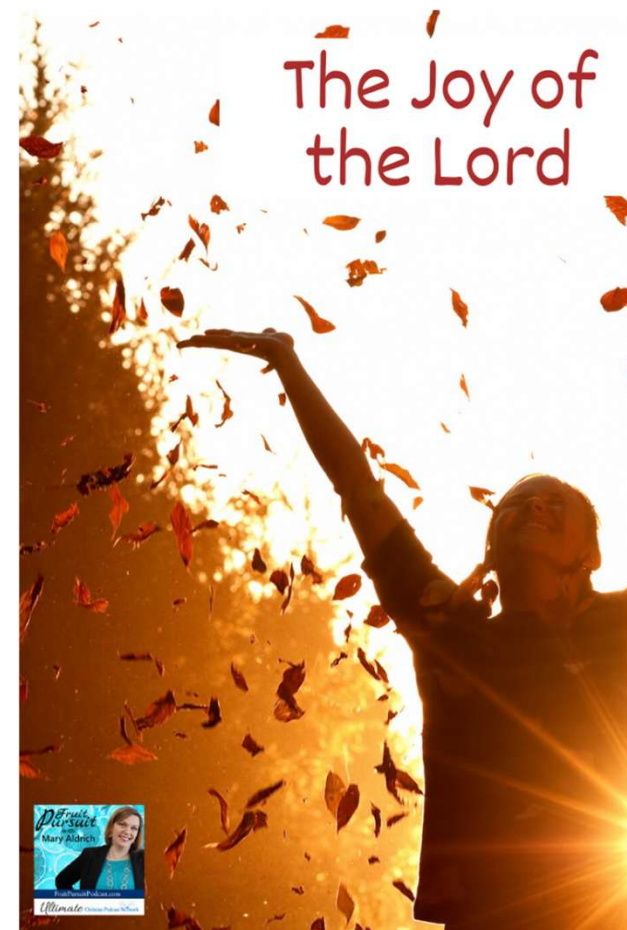
- What makes you **glad**?
- What **warms** your heart?
- What makes you **laugh**?
- What is **exciting** to you?
- What makes you **happy**?
Really happy? So
happy you just have to
tell someone?



- For many people, their grandchildren are their **greatest joy**.
- As we grow older, we discover that **people** are more important than **things**.
- While it is a **joy** to receive a **gift**, it is **more important** to understand that the **things** that **money** can buy only bring us **joy** for a **little while**, a short season.
- That kind of **joy** or excitement **quickly** goes away.
- **It is a passing joy, not permanent.**



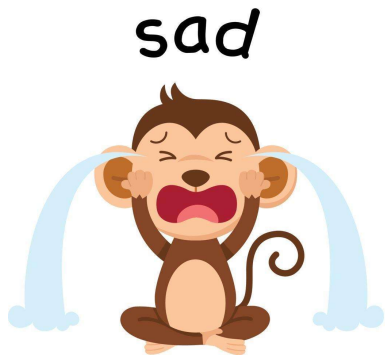
- But what about the **joy** that lasts; the joy that endures, **never fades away**; the kind of joy that **stays fresh** in **every circumstance**?
 - **for the joy of the LORD is your strength.** Nehemiah 8:10
- **The joy that lasts forever is the joy of the Lord Himself!**
- The word for “**strength**” in this verse means, “**a refuge or a stronghold**”.
- **The Lord’s joy will defend and protect you!**
- The **joy** of the Lord will **increase your faith to overcome any kind of fear.**



- Religion, television, and the movies have painted a false picture that God is a gloomy or angry person, but the Bible calls Him the “**blessed**” or “**happy**” God.
 - According to the **glorious gospel of the blessed God**, which was committed to my trust.
1 Timothy 1:11
- **Jesus is full of joy!**
- The things that **money** can buy **will never** produce **lifelong** happiness.
- **Even another person**, no matter how much we love them, **cannot provide** the kind of **joy** that is always there.

The Gospel of the Blessed God

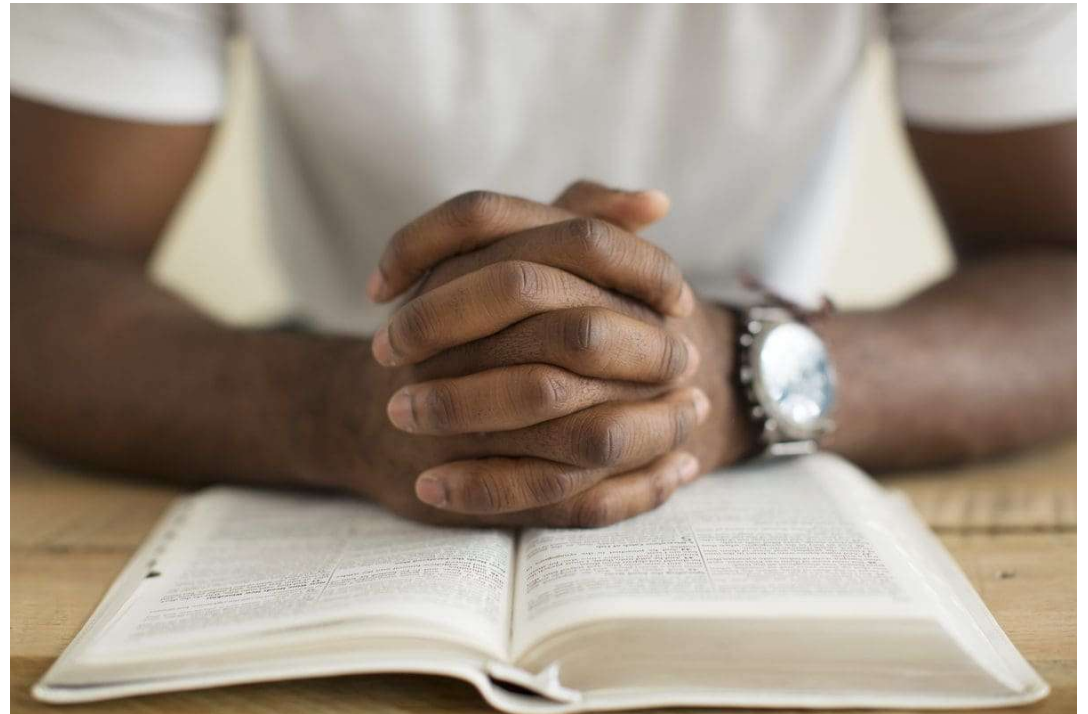




- I have been blessed to experience many **happy** occasions in my life.
- I have also gone through very **sad** and **trying, difficult** times.
- **Whenever I put my trust or faith in something OTHER than the Lord, I got hurt and disappointed.**
- I want you to have the **joy** of the Lord for the rest of your life.
- I pray you don't experience **harm** or **injury**.



- I **received Jesus as my Savior** when I was 7 years old and was filled with the Holy Spirit when I was in my teens.
- I **studied** the word of God throughout my life, but didn't really put God FIRST until later in my life.
- I was often "**too busy**" to do the work necessary to put God first.
- Often, I **substituted** reading the word by listening to a minister.
- The **Holy Spirit** wants to talk to you through the reading of the Word and through prayer.
- I don't want you to make these same **mistakes**.
- I want you to **go after God** and His **joy** with **all your heart** and start as young as you can.
 - Remember now thy Creator **in the days of thy youth**, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; Ecclesiastes 12:1





The **Joy** that Lasts is Found in **Serving Others**

- Let Jesus show you **the secret of having His joy.**
- If we are to discover that **truth** and unravel that mystery, we need to understand that **His “JOY”** works this way:
 - **J**esus First
 - **O**thers Second
 - **Y**ourself Last
- **Jesus** said, “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I **do always those things that please him.**” John 8:29
- But **seek ye first** the kingdom of **God**, and his righteousness; and **all these things** shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33

- The Father sent Jesus to earth.
- In the same way, Jesus has dispatched us.
 - Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you:
as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. John 20:21
- Tap into God's **everlasting joy** by **serving** and **giving your time** to others!
- People who are **selfish** and who must always have everything their way **are not happy**.
- They have robbed themselves of the **joy of the Lord**.



- Maybe God is calling you to **serve** your family or the youth, or the elderly, the poor, the needy, or handicapped.
- **You will find that you are happier when you are giving of yourself to others.**
- The **joy** of the Lord is in blessing others!
- It is an honor to walk in the **joy** of the Lord!
- It is an honor to be around those who **serve** and **bless** others.
- The **secret** to having **real joy** is to focus on **Jesus first, others second, and yourself last.**



No Matter the Circumstance!

- God's Kingdom is first of all marked by his **Righteousness**.
- Second, it is characterized by his **Peace**.
- Third, it is all about His **JOY**.
- The awesome **JOY** that is always there is a **Person**.
- **The King of JOY is JESUS!**
- The **JOY** of the Kingdom is **His JOY!**
 - These things have I spoken unto you, **that my joy might remain in you,** and **that your joy might be full.** John 15:11



You do not Need
to Be Afraid of
Your Present or
of Your Future.

An awesome life of LASTING JOY –
His JOY – is now available.

True happiness can only become a
reality by our serving God and others.

The earlier we learn that, the more
fulfilled our lives will be.

Self-Reflective Indicators of Spiritual Strength

What makes you happy? What makes you sad? Why?

What are the happiest times of your life so far? What has (people, things, situations) brought you the most joy?

What are some of the ways in which you can serve others - your family, friends, or the people in your community?

Join me in Worship

The Joy of the Lord is My Strength

The joy of the Lord is my strength, my song, In every season, You make me strong. Through every trial, through every storm, Your joy is my peace, my heart restored. I'll rejoice in You, forevermore, For the joy of the Lord is my strength.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmFoSOyr6vo&list=RDmmFoSOyr6vo&start_radio=1