



Dwight Keith Ministries, Inc.
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JOY - OUR SPIRITUAL FORTRESS

JOY (Webster) the emotion evoked by well-being, success, good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires!

JOY (Greek) cheerfulness, delight, exceeding gladness

Neh. 8:10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

STRENGTH (Heb-maw-ooz¹) a fortified place, a defense, fortress, stronghold

WHY DO WE NEED GOD'S JOY?

(1) JOY IS A COMMAND

Psa. 27:6 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD

Phil. 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

(1) JOY IS OUR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; James 1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

(3) JOY IS A VITAL PART OF FAITH

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for (JOYFULLY EXPECTED), the evidence of things not seen

2Cor. 1:24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand

EXPECT (Webster) to look forward to, to be pregnant, to look forward to the coming of what you hope for.

(4) JOY IS VITAL TO OUR HEALTH

Prov. 18:14 The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

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Prov 18:19 (Amplified) The strong spirit of a man sustains him in boldly pain or trouble, but a weak and broken spirit, who can raise up or bear?

Prov. 17:22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Is. 66:14 And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.

Prov. 15:30 The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat.
Prov. 16:24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Prov. 14:30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

JOY IS VITAL TO OUR WITNESS

Gen. 21:6 And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.

2Cor. 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

Matt. 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

THAT YOUR JOY MIGHT BE FULL

(1) LIVE AND DO EVERYTHING BY FAITH AND KEEP GOD'S WORD ³THE FINAL ANSWER²

John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

Psa. 19:8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Rom. 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

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John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Prov. 21:15 It is joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity

Ecc. 2:26 For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God.

Jer. 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Matt. 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Matt. 7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

1Cor. 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

(2) FELLOWSHIP WITH PEOPLE OF LOVE AND FAITH

1John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1John 1:4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full

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2Cor. 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Mal. 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name

Col. 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Col. 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Col. 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Col. 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Col. 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power

Rom. 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

Rom. 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psa. 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night

Heb. 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises

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(3) SAY ONLY WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT YOU

Prov. 15:23 A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

Prov. 16:24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

Prov. 21:23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

Psa. 103:5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

(4) POUR OUR LIFE INTO OTHERS

Matt. 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Heb. 6:10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Heb. 6:11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

Heb. 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

HEB 6:10-12 (WUEST NEW TESTAMENT GREEK) For God is not unjust to forget your work and the divine love which you exhibited toward His name in that you ministered to the saints and are continuing to minister. But we are strongly desirous that each you of you show the same diligence until the end **IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY BECOME NOT SLUGGISH, but IMITATORS** of those who through **FAITH AND PATIENCE** waiting are **NOW INHERITING THE PROMISES!**

(5) STAY IN CONSTANT FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

Psa. 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

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John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Is. 56:7 Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Prov. 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you

1John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

1John 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

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