

Finding Joy in God

A night sky with a starry background and a road leading towards the horizon. The sky is filled with numerous stars and a prominent bright star with a lens flare on the left. The road is a two-lane asphalt road with a white dashed center line, stretching into the distance. The landscape is a flat, grassy field under a dark blue night sky.

Matthew 2:10-11

Matthew 28:5-9

Luke 6:20-23

Romans 5:3-5

James 1:2-4

Characteristics of NT Joy

1. Joy Comes From God's Promises & Prompts Action
2. Joy Comes From a Right Perspective & Can Be Found in Trials
3. Joy in Trials Leads to Becoming Mature

“A sense of well-being that produces a calming gratitude and peace.” -John, Gym Supervisor

“A response to a realization of God’s blessings, successes and promises. Joy is not dependent upon outside circumstances or influences but is supplied by God to His servants through the Holy Spirit.” -Kevin

Content/Contentment- OT/NT

- **Content**- 0 times in the Old Testament (NASB)
 - Often expressed through the meaning of “Shalom” which is often translated as “peace” but is **MUCH** deeper than that.
- **Contentment**- 0 times in the Old Testament (NASB)
- **Content**- 5 times in the New Testament (NASB)
- **Contentment**- 1 time in the New Testament (NASB)

Joy/Joyful- OT/NT

- **Joy**- 114 times in the Old Testament (NASB)
- **Joyful**- 26 times in the Old Testament (NASB)
- **Joy**- 58 times in the New Testament (NASB)
- **Joyful**- 1 time in the New Testament (NASB)

Joy Comes From God's Promises & Prompts Action

**Open Your Bibles to
Matthew 2:10-11**

**Turn in Your Bibles to
Matthew 28:5-9**

- The Jews had been waiting for the promised Messiah for centuries.
- Even Gentiles had been waiting. In Numbers 24:17, Balaam prophesied about a star coming forth from Jacob when the King was born.
- The excitement of the Messiah's birth led these Magi to hurry to Bethlehem.
- Joyful excitement gave way to gift-giving and worship.
- Joy brought a fear/reverence for God in His power to reverse "un-reversible" events.

**Joy Comes From a
Right Perspective &
Can Be Found in Trials**

**Turn in Your Bibles to
Luke 6:20-23**

And turning His gaze toward His disciples, He began to say, “Blessed are you who are **poor**, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who **hunger now**, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who **weep now**, for you shall laugh. **Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil**, for the sake of the Son of Man. **Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.”**

Luke 6:20-23

- Biblical joy does not always come from the same things that the world finds happiness in.
- Joy is a choice that can be found even in bad situations.
- Gladness/Joy comes with physical signs.
 - **σκιρτάω (skirtao)**- leaping caused by exuberance from joy
- Joy comes from being counted among God's "elite."
- Joy comes from realizing a faithful person's reward is in Heaven.

Outsiders will not understand the shift in perspective.

**Insiders will sometimes need reminding
that the perspective has shifted!**

Joy in Trials Leads to Becoming Mature

**Consider Romans 5:3-5
and James 1:2-4**

(James 1:2-4) **Consider it all joy**, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the **testing of your faith produces endurance**. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be **perfect and complete**, lacking in nothing.

(Romans 5:3-5) And not only this, but we also **exult in our tribulations**, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and **perseverance**, proven character; and **proven character**, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

What About Us?

- Do we find joy in God's promises being fulfilled?
- Do we respond correctly to God's successes in His mission?
- Do we find joy in the things that truly matter?
- Do we respond correctly to life's struggles?



Christ's Church in Rock Springs
grow in respect to salvation.