

A 3D rendered grey figure is shown from the waist up, holding a large yellow rectangular sign above its head with both hands. The sign is tilted slightly to the right. The background is plain white.

Looking For Joy?

Nehemiah 8:8-12
Matthew 13:20-23
1 Peter 2:1-5

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)

“The settled conviction that God sovereignly controls the events of life for the believers’ good and His glory. Spiritual joy is not an attitude dependent on chance or circumstance. It is the deep and abiding confidence that regardless of one’s circumstances in life, all is well between the believer and the Lord. No matter what difficulty, pain, disappointment, failure, rejection, or other challenge one is facing, genuine joy remains because of that eternal well being established by God’s grace in salvation. Thus, Scripture makes it clear that the fullest, most lasting and satisfying joy is derived from a true relationship with God. It is not based on circumstances or chance, but is the gracious and permanent possession of every child of God.”

-John MacArthur

“Christian joy is not a giddy, superficial happiness that can be devastated by illness, economic difficulties, broken relationships, or the countless other vicissitudes and disappointments of life.

Instead, it flows from the deep, unshakable confidence that God is eternally in control of every aspect of life for the good of His beloved children – a confidence rooted in the knowledge of His Word.

God’s character, the saving work of Christ, the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, divine providence, spiritual blessings, the promise of future glory, answered prayer and Christian fellowship all cause the believer to rejoice.”

-John MacArthur

“A sense of well-being that produces a calming gratitude and peace.” -John at the gym

“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

**Joy Comes From
Knowing God & His Word**

**Open Your Bibles to
Nehemiah 8:8-12**

They read from the book, from the law of God, translating to give the sense so that they understood the reading.

Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; **do not mourn or weep.**” For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, “Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. **Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**” So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.” **All the people went away to eat, to drink, to send portions and to celebrate a great festival, because they understood the words which had been made known to them.**

Nehemiah 8:8-12

- Jerusalem was destroyed in 586 BC.
- Babylon fell to the Medo-Persians in 539 BC.
- The Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem in 531 BC under Zerubbabel.
- Temple worship was not restored until 516 BC.
- The Law was not reestablished until Ezra in 458 BC.
- Nehemiah began rebuilding the walls in 445 BC.

Except for what they could remember, God's people were without the Law for over 100 years!

**Joy Coming From
Hearing God's Message
May Not Last**

**Turn in Your Bibles to
Matthew 13:20-23**

Joy + Cost-Counting

- χαρά (chara)- the experience of gladness, joyfulness caused by a person or thing, event causing joyfulness
- συνίημι (suniaime)- to have an intelligent grasp of something that challenges one's thinking or practice, understand, comprehend
- Joy does not always come from understanding. This Message is expensive.
- Joy does not always lead to commitment or long-term commitment past the initial excitement.
- Hearing the Word and counting the costs can lead to being productive for God.
- Productive does not mean easy!

How Do We Know God?

Turn in Your Bibles to
1 Peter 2:1-5

- **(2 Timothy 3:14-17)** You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness**; so that the man of God may be adequate, **equipped for every good work**.
- **(John 1:14)** And the **Word became flesh**, and **dwelt among us**, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, **full of grace and truth**.
- **(John 8:31-32)** So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you **continue in My word**, then you are **truly disciples of Mine**; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Want More Joy?

- Putting aside ungodly attitudes and behaviors ar

- Craving the '

- Scriptur

- Jesus (



Christ's Church in Rock Springs

grow in respect to salvation.

- Growth in respect to God's promises

produces more joy.

Joy STARTS & ENDS with Knowing

- Christians are to come to Jesus to be
God and Committing to His Will!
built up into God's spiritual house.