

Joy of the Lord our strength

Nehemiah 8:10

“Then he (Nehemiah) 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.”

We will be addressing the Joy of the Lord, in order to understand God’s empowerment to build a new thing or to rebuild what is ruined and bring it back to the original purpose he intended.

What is the Joy of the Lord?

It is the strength that empowers us to properly function, be grounded in Him and operate in all circumstances with heavenly insight and clarity of mind. It is the knowing that Our Heavenly Father has already provided everything needed to fulfill the life assignments God has designed you for. This provision is exceeding and abundant: Way more than enough and to spare!

IT IS THIS JOY THAT FUELS YOU WHEN THINGS GET HARD.

Nehemiah together with Ezra the priest and others, were commissioned by the King of Persia to the first round of Jews from the Babylonian Exile and rebuild the ruins of Jerusalem. Amid controversy and great opposition by wicked leaders of surrounding cities and groups of foreign squatters, this group of exiles successfully rebuilt the walls of the city in its entirety.

John 16:33

“These things I have spoken to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

Only the joy of the Lord can be the source of strength we need to fulfill the desire of the Father, to do exploits and expand His kingdom on the earth.

Ephesians 6:10

“Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”

This strength does not proceed from us, but from the One that dwells within us.

Jesus is the Source of your empowerment and the Giver of authority and dominion.

EVERYTHING WE NEED TO CONQUER AND OVERCOME IS AT OUR DISPOSAL.

Not by fleshly power or by the might of man, *but by His Spirit.*

Joy is a product of being connected to the Vine. The absence of Joy is a product of walking in discouragement (also meaning “disconnected.”)

How do we appropriate the Joy of the Lord?

1. GO, eat of the fat- in other words, we have been given permission to enjoy the abundance and richness found in the love of our heavenly father and the power of His word.
2. Eat of the sweet- Partake of His sweetness; receive the adoption by the Spirit that makes you, His child. You don't have to work for it. It is yours because of Jesus.
3. Send portions to him who has nothing prepared- Focus on the needs of others, because Your heavenly Father has already taken care of you. There is great freedom in serving others.
4. Do not be grieved- being grieved is not only to hurt or be in pain; it also means “to distort.”

In other words, Nehemiah was telling the people, “Don't be overwhelmed, don't get it twisted; God sent us here and we will finish what we have started.’

What does the Joy of the Lord look like?

FOR YOURSELF: _____

FOR YOUR FAMILY: _____

FOR YOUR AREA IN THE MARKETPLACE: _____
