

Wednesday Word 12/17/2025

Nehemiah 8:10 *"Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, **for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**"*

When the recession of 2008 hit our economy, I was a union carpenter. Over the previous 15 years there was a major housing boom in western Washington, and many new schools were being built to accommodate the condensed neighborhoods being built in western counties. Unfortunately, when the recession hit, many carpenters were being laid off, and work was hard to find. I spent years working small jobs, and by God's grace and provision, was able to keep food on our table.

Our oldest three kids were very young at this time and Naomi and I made the conscious choice to shield them from the stress and uncertainty of all that was happening. We committed to leading normal lives, having dinner at the table each night, and attending church every week. When I ask my oldest kids about that time in our lives or mention the recession that cripples our economy and our financial lives, they have no recollection of that. Their memories are of the childhood we worked hard to create for them despite the "adult challenges" that we were facing.

While I remember some very dark times (losing basic services due to non-payment) we were still able to navigate our lives with joy. It was our decision to not allow the circumstances of life to dictate our attitude, our contentment and our relationship. Our faith in God superseded and situation our lives brought our way.

Now we look back on those years and see without a doubt the hand of God on our lives protecting, providing and sustaining. His Joy was our strength!

Look at your life today. What circumstances in your world would destroy you emotionally or spiritually if you let them? Let's prayerfully consider this thought this week and let the Joy of the Lord supersede all our circumstances. In the Joy of the Lord is sustainment and satisfaction.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg