

Joy: a state of happiness, felicity, bliss. [Merriam-Webster]

What is your source of joy? Truth is - Circumstances change. Fleeting.

What we need is a source of joy... constantly fed.

What we need is God, and the right state of mind. Joy is a mindset. Train -7!

**Psalm 16:11** – “You reveal the path of life to me; in your presence is abundant joy; at your right hand are eternal pleasures.”

- Notice: “abundant joy” ... God doesn’t do anything half-way.
- **Joy b/c of God’s presence.** What do we know about His presence?
  - God doesn’t leave... abandon... not alone. Orphan. Constant.
  - **Zephaniah** - prophecy book. Tells of God’s judgment & urges to “seek the Lord.” Repent. Don’t ignore God, but ... in the midst, Reminder:
    - **Zephaniah 3:17- God’s Word Trans.** – “The LORD your God is with you. He is a hero who saves you. He happily rejoices over you, renews you with his love, & celebrates over you with shouts of joy.”
  - Even though we fail, imperfect - God still loves us & is with us! His love for us continues . . . renewing us, restoring us, calming . . . & JOY.
    - God is with us - wanting **relationship** - to **bless** us & **we know it**.

We don’t see God, but we feel His presence. We know it. Know He’s there.

- **Joy** is directly **tied** to what we know. . . to our **Knowledge**.
- **Jesus** gave us some guidance – the Last Supper... spoke of vine/ branches...  
“Remain in me & let my words remain in you...Remain in my love.”
  - **John 15:11** – “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”
  - **Joy comes from knowledge.** What did Jesus teach? Love.
    - We are loved always. Nothing stops it. Not our mistakes, doubts.
    - It’s knowing God takes care of us ... has our best interest at heart.
    - It’s knowing God promises good/ from bad.
  - **Joy: knows every little thing’s gonna be alright!**
- **Joy comes from knowledge, not circumstances.**
  - If U base your joy on how your day is going, it’ll be up/down. Come/go
  - Joy exists even tho we may have problems, challenges, even grief.

- “One may experience sorrow during the night, but joy arrives in the morning.” – **Psalm 30:5**
  - **Joy is what lets us laugh through tears.**
  - **Joy - Smile after disappointment. Stand up after falling.**

**Joy** should be the hallmark of a Christian. Our identifiable characteristic.

- A gloomy, downcast Christian is a contradiction... Oxymoron. Jumbo shrimp. Silent Scream. Alone Together. Seriously Funny. Crash Landing. NOPE

**Gal. 5:22-23** – “**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**”

- **Joy is a fruit of H.S.** It’s **evidence** of who we are... **what we believe/know.**
  - **Spirit bears fruit** when - personal relationship w/ Jesus... walking / Him... **serving Him.**

- ► **Christianity isn’t a religion to be endured, but a relationship to be enjoyed.**

It’s **important to God** we have joy . . . b/c it shows what we know!!

**Deut. 28:47-48** - <sup>47</sup> **If you do not serve the Lord your God with joy and enthusiasm for the abundant benefits you have received,** <sup>48</sup> **you will serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you.”**

- **Living w/o joy** is like discrediting God’s blessings . . . it’s forgetting His promises . . . His very nature – Love & goodness.

Q: What attributes/qualities do you show? Joy? Is joy missing?

- **Joy** requires a **relationship** w/ God... daily. Attach to the vine. Plug back in!
  - It’s a mindset - - know God . . . that’s where you will find joy.
  - **JOY ALIVE in 2025 is possible. Return to Relationship w/Jesus**
    - You may have wandered, you may have become weary, you might have walked away b/c ...
  - Joy is yours when you return to the presence of God.
    - **Isaiah 51:11** – “**So the redeemed of the LORD will return and enter Zion with singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee.**”
- Being joyful isn’t that life has no problems. **Paul** lived a difficult life. Was imprisoned for many years. Even there, he wrote of joy:
- “**Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again – rejoice!**” – **Phil. 4:4**
  - Seek God, remember His love, acknowledging His blessings ... **Joy.**