

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Joy

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Joy comes out of relationship with God. We do not earn joy – joy is given. Paul tells the Philippians, “Rejoice, and again I say rejoice.” It was not a demand to perform, but it was the spermatic word of God being spoken to a people to instill the provision of God. The Philippian people were being built up and strengthened by joy to stand firm in the Lord. Joy has the ability to fill us and cause us to rise above what would burden and drain us of strength. Joy is filled with power. It is a supernatural substance that is given to us by God Himself. Joy is substance that fills our heart bringing life and strength. Our entire physical body and our mind are impacted by joy. A cheerful heart, filled with joy, is good medicine. Joy brings health to your body and mind. Joy is linked to hope and faith. Receiving joy says that I am unwilling to allow my lack to control my life or circumstances – what I don’t possess or what I have failed at will not define me and my future. Christ in me is my hope and that brings great joy. I step into the joy given to me by my Father, which is stepping into strength, faith and hope. Joy has the power to lift. It keeps me buoyant. As I am filled with this supernatural substance of power and strength I can also release joy into the atmosphere. I can speak words that are filled with joy that bring hope. Joy has the power to encourage. It releases vision and energy to do. Joy is like the wind of God filling your sail causing you to advance and move forward. Joy counteracts mourning and discouragement – that down in the dumps feeling that paralyzes you. You are no stronger than your joy. Joy is the measure of strength. Joy sets us free. Joy motivated Jesus to endure the cross. In the presence of God there is the fullness of joy. Joy is a key substance and dynamic of the kingdom of God.



Romans 14.17 NASB

For **the kingdom of God** is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and **joy in the Holy Spirit**.

Romans 15.13 NASB

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 15.5, 9-11 NASB

⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; **he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.**

⁹ Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; **abide in My love.** ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ **These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.**

Acts 13.52 NASB

And the disciples **were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.**



Galatians 5.22-23 NASB

²² But **the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

1 Peter 1.8-9 TPT

⁸You love him passionately although you did not see him, but **through believing in him you are saturated with an ecstatic joy, indescribably sublime and immersed in glory.** ⁹For you are reaping the harvest of your faith—the full salvation promised you—your souls’ victory!

As we are filled with the supernatural supply and dynamic of joy in us, we can release joy into our city. We pour the joy of the Lord over Detroit. To Detroit we declare that you are filled with joy unspeakable and full of the glory of the Lord. That as the waters covers the sea so will our city be covered and immersed with joy. Joy that strengthens and bring hope. Joy that brings a breeding ground for inventiveness and creativity. To Detroit we say, “Rejoice in the Lord always and again we say rejoice!”

Nehemiah 8.9-12 NIV Reworded

⁹ Then the Body of Christ the priest over Detroit, instructed the City saying, “This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping.

¹⁰ The Body of Christ said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. **Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**”

¹¹ The Church calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.”

¹² Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and **to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.**

Psalms 5 11-12 TPT Reworded

¹¹ But let all of the city be glad,
those who turn aside to hide themselves in you.

May they keep shouting for joy forever!

Overshadow them in your presence as they sing and rejoice.

Then every lover of your name will burst forth with endless joy.

¹² Lord, how wonderfully you bless this city.
Your favor wraps around each one and covers them
under your canopy of kindness and joy.

Psalms 33.1-5 TPT Reworded

¹ **It’s time to sing and shout for joy Detroit!**

Go ahead, all you redeemed ones, do it!

Praise him with all you have,

for praise looks lovely on the lips of God’s lovers.

² Play the guitar as you lift your praises loaded with thanksgiving.

Sing and make joyous music with all you’ve got inside.

³ **Compose new melodies Detroit that release new praises to the Lord.**



Play his praises on instruments
with the anointing and skill he gives you.
Sing and shout with passion; make a spectacular sound of joy

⁴ For God's Word is something to sing about!

**He is true to his promises Detroit, his word can be trusted,
and everything he does is reliable and right.**

⁵ The Lord loves seeing justice in the city.

Anywhere and everywhere you can find his faithful, unfailing love!

Psalm 34.8-9 TPT Reworded

⁸ **Drink deeply of the pleasures of this God Detroit.**

Experience for yourself the joyous mercies he gives

to all who turn to hide themselves in him.

⁹ **Worship in awe and wonder,** all you who've been made holy!

For all who fear him will feast with plenty.

Psalm 85.6 TPT

Revive us again, O God! I know you will! **Give us a fresh start!** Then **all your people will taste your joy and gladness.**

