

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Joy That Builds March 18, 2025 Suzi Armstrong

Acts 13.52 NASB

⁵² **And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.**

- The context of this scripture was Paul and Barnabus being persecuted and driven out of a region for preaching the Gospel.
- Jealousy had been stirred up and out of that came persecution.
- The sound and substance of joy was so strong in the hearts of the disciples that they did not lose heart, nor did they lose their strength.
- They were continually FILLED WITH JOY.
 - In the NT, joy is used to describe a deep, abiding sense of joy and gladness that is rooted in spiritual realities rather than external circumstances. It is associated with the presence of Holy Spirit and is characterized by a sense of inner peace and contentment that transcends worldly troubles. (Bible Hub)
 - Continually filled – having no interruptions, joy was continuously flowing in and through the disciples.
 - Their hearts were filled with joy.
 - Their thoughts were filled with joy.
 - Their expectations were filled with joy.
 - This is joy that builds. Joy pulls the future into the now. Joy that strengthens and sustains.

True joy comes out of relationship with God. Paul tells the Philippians, "Rejoice, and again I say rejoice." 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 – power to build and advance. It is a supernatural substance that is given to us by God Himself. Joy is the 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. 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.

Feeling weak? Tired? Stressed? Overwhelmed? May the God of hope fill you with all joy! The Bible says that when you believe in Jesus you ARE FILLED with an inexpressible and glorious joy! And this joy does not diminish or leave you. Joy is filled with hope and promise that is eternal. Joy gives vision and builds a prosperous future. Joy fills the heart to such an extent that our heart overflows with thankfulness and gratitude – our cup runs over.

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!

Psalms 33.1-5 TPT

¹ **It's time to sing and shout for joy! Go ahead, all you redeemed ones, do it!**

Praise him with all you have, for praise looks lovely on the lips of God's devoted 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** 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, his word can be trusted, and everything he does is reliable and right.

⁵ The Lord loves seeing justice on the earth.

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

Psalm 47.1-7a TPT

¹ Go ahead and celebrate! Come on and clap your hands, everyone!

Shout to God with the raucous sounds of joy!

² The Lord God Most High is astonishing, awesome beyond words!

He's the formidable and powerful King over all the earth.

³ He's the one who conquered the nations before us
and placed them all under our feet.

⁴ He's marked out our inheritance ahead of time,
putting us in the front of the line, honoring Jacob, the one he loves.

Pause in his presence

⁵ **God arises with the earsplitting shout of his people!**

God goes up with a trumpet blast!

⁶ Sing and celebrate! Sing some more, celebrate some more!

Sing your highest song of praise to our King!

⁷ For **God is the triumphant King; the powers of earth are all his.**

- God moves in the midst of joy, in the sound of joy.
- Joy contains a sound that draws the Lord and confounds the enemy.
- Joy puts satan into checkmate.
- It is His breath in our lungs – it releases joy.
- God rises up in our joy.
- Joy lifts us up – changes our perspective.
- The sound of our joy silences devils. They do not have a comeback sound. Devils flee.

PRAYER AND DECLARATION:

We release the sound of joy over our Nation, over our City, over our families and neighborhoods, over places of business, schools, government, law enforcement, and media. **We declare the joy that comes from God releases strength and confounds the enemy. We declare that the joy of the Lord turns the battle at the gate. We declare that every place of oppression and depression are being invaded with joy that sets the captive free.** True joy comes from knowing God and believing He is!! Nothing is impossible with God. God sits on His throne and laughs at His enemies.

The Bible says, **joy unspeakable and full of glory.** The joy of the Lord is FILLED with the GLORY POWER of God Almighty! Who is this King? He is the Lord who is mighty in battle! The joy of the Lord overcomes the enemy. **The joy of the Lord is the smell of death to satan and his cohorts.** We look at the culture war going on right now and release the joy of the Lord over the top of it. Joy that brings life and wholeness. Joy that leads to revival. Joy that overturns sickness and disease. We release the joy of the Lord and declare God's Kingdom come and His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven! We release the joy of the Lord to break apart the stronghold of fear, oppression and expose the lies of satan.

As we are filled with the supernatural supply and dynamic of joy in us, we 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 cover the sea so will our City be covered and immersed with joy. **Joy that strengthens and bring hope. Joy that builds. Joy that brings a breeding ground for inventiveness and creativity. To Detroit we say, "Rejoice in the Lord always and again we say rejoice!"**