

God with Us

God with Us Brings Hope

Psalms 5:11 • Pastor Dean Lancaster • December 16, 2018

As we continue to celebrate the first coming of our Lord and await His second and glorious coming as King, we want to examine the reason and source of Joy.

Joy is a state of mind, or more accurately it is a state of the mind and heart that can be maintained.

“Joy is the fruit of a right relation with God.” *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*

Our Source of Joy

Joy comes from God, in fact He is the only reason for real joy.

Joy is found in Jesus.

Luke 1:41–45 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

We are blessed with joy when we believe the promises of God.

1 Peter 1:8–9 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Joy Defies our Circumstances

Sometimes we confuse joy with happy times, but the Bible describes a joy that is present even when we experience bad times.

James 1:2-3

In this instance joy is not only a state of mind but an action.

Joy is a Choice

Joy understands that there is more than meets the eye.

Joy understands that eventually God will make everything right and healed and whole, including us.

There is a process involved, and that’s part of the point.

As we continue immersing ourselves in His Word, and aligning our thinking to His ways, His Spirit brings us clarity, understanding, and strength to act in the joy He provides.

We are told to rejoice continuously.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

We can choose to rejoice or to fret and worry.

Romans 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Take this with you...

What situations are stealing your joy?

Can I encourage you to ask God to give you another view—to show you His big picture?

You and I were destined to Hell because of our sin, but God poured out His wrath on Jesus, so we would not have to suffer it ourselves.

God is with us and can give us joy in any circumstance.