

INBREAKING

THE KINGDOM COME AT CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:10

“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”

Luke 2:8-9

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

James 4:1-3

What causes fights & quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel & fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

Joy's the natural outcome of experiencing
the love of Christ.

Joy's more than emotion, it's a pervasive
sense, not just a thought, but a condition
of overall ultimate well-being as a result
of Jesus & his work in the world.

Joy's primarily marked by a
feeling of *delight*

Dallas Willard

“Joy isn’t the same as pleasure, although it’s pleasant. Pleasure & pain are always specific to some particular object or condition, such as eating something you really like (pleasure) or recalling some really foolish thing you did (pain).”

The three, Hope, Peace & Joy, so closely married, they may be indistinguishable.

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled & do not be afraid.

John 14:29-31

I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father & do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

John 15:11

*I have told you this so that my
joy may be in you & that your
joy may be complete*

Nehemiah 8:10

the Joy of the Lord is our strength!

Luke 1:44

“As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy”

Matthew 18:20

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”

Hebrews 12:2

“...Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer & perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Romans 14:17

“...the kingdom of God is...a matter of... righteousness, peace & joy in the Holy Spirit...”

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again: Rejoice!

Henri Nouwen

“At every moment of our life we have the opportunity to choose joy...we have to choose joy & keep choosing it...” every day

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer & petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts & your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:8-9

Finally, brothers & sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Invite the Holy Spirit
to bring Christ's joy & act on it.

You are what you eat!