TOPIC PRINTABLE

Joy

Joy in Scripture rests on God's presence and promises — deeper than happiness, and able to live alongside sorrow.

JOHN 15:11

I have spoken these things to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be made full.

Jesus speaks of His own joy remaining in His disciples. Joy is shared from Him and tied to remaining in His love (15:9-10), not something to produce on demand.

PSALM 16:11

You will show me the path of life. In Your presence is fullness of joy. In Your right hand there are pleasures forever more.

"In Your presence is fullness of joy": the psalm locates joy in nearness to God rather than in circumstances.

NEHEMIAH 8:10

Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared, for today is holy to our Lord. Don't be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Spoken to a people weeping as they heard the law read. The joy they are given is a feast day's joy, and it includes sending portions "to him for whom nothing is prepared."

PSALM 30:5

For His anger is but for a moment. His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may stay for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

"Weeping may stay for the night, but joy comes in the morning." The psalm makes room for the night and does not say how long it lasts.

LUKE 2:10

The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people.

Joy as news received: “good news of great joy which will be to all the people,” announced to shepherds at night.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, “Rejoice!”

“Rejoice in the Lord always!” was written by a prisoner. The joy is “in the Lord,” not in circumstances; it is a call to a community, not a demand to feel cheerful.

JOHN 16:20–22

Most certainly I tell you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. A woman, when she gives birth, has sorrow because her time has come. But when she has delivered the child, she doesn’t remember the anguish any more, for the joy that a human being is born into the world. Therefore you now have sorrow, but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.

Jesus tells His disciples plainly that they will weep, then promises that “your sorrow will be turned into joy.” The sorrow is real first.

ROMANS 15:13

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

Paul prays that God will fill believers with joy and peace “in believing.” Joy is asked for as a gift from God.

GALATIANS 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith,

Joy is listed as fruit of the Spirit: something that grows over time alongside love and peace, not a feeling to manufacture.

JAMES 1:2–4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you fall into various temptations, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. Let endurance have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

"Count it all joy" when trials come — not because trials are good, but because of the endurance and maturity they can produce.