

ADVENT SERIES

Andy Deane · 12/11/2022 · Joy

Hope, peace, and love are all inner qualities that we cultivate, but joy can motivate us to celebrate outwardly. It can overflow out of us to express itself in our: worship, words and wants. 2 Samuel 6 shows this happening to David.

Last week we spoke of advent themes: hope & peace.

Advent Theme #3: JOY

In Biblical terms, having joy means being happy & rejoicing that something good that has arrived or is coming. It has a long-term view of life, emphasizing the good that will come from the Lord, despite present circumstances.

How does joy relate to Christmas?

- Luke 1:14, *He will be a joy & delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth.*
- Is that your experience with Jesus? That He is a “joy & delight”?
- Nehemiah 8:10, *...the joy of the Lord is your strength.*

If not, here are three truths about biblical joy to focus on. We have...

#1 JOY ETERNAL:

- Jesus was born to save us: Matthew 1:21, *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*
- Angels celebrate: Luke 15:10, *There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over 1 sinner who repents.*
- Sin dampens joy: Psalms 51:12, *Restore to me the joy of your salvation & grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.*
- If you believe this, it can reflect itself in how you worship (express yourself sincerely when you praise God).

#2 JOY IN TRIAL:

- James 1:2-3, *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”*
- Even if it leads to pain: Luke 6:23, *Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.*
- Pray with big faith: John 16:24, *Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask & you will receive, & your joy will be complete.*
- If you believe this, it can reflect itself in your words (let your heart overflow from your mouth about good news).

#3 JOY TODAY:

- Go to God for satisfaction: Psalms 94:19, *When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy.*
- Find joy in being in God’s presence: Psalms 16:11, *You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*
- Let the Holy Spirit do a work from the inside out: Galatians 5:22, *...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...*
- If you believe this, it can reflect itself in your wants (find more desire in godly things and less in the world).