



Joyful Spirit

by Gail Yost

Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.

Serve the LORD with gladness;

come before Him with joyful singing.

Know that the LORD Himself is God;

it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;

we are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.

Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

For the LORD is good;

His lovingkindness is everlasting

and His faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100

What is Christian joy?

- A spontaneous, emotional response of the heart, **NOT** an act of will power
 - 1 Peter 1:8-9 *You greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.*
- Deep and firm, **NOT** superficial and fluffy
 - Romans 5:3 . . . *We also exult in our tribulations . . .*
 - 2 Corinthians 8:1-2 *Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.*
- Spiritual, **NOT** natural
 - Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.*



Where does joy come from?

- Joy comes from God.
 - Psalm 4:7 *You [God] have put gladness in my heart, more than when their grain and new wine abound.*
 - Psalm 16:11 *You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*
- Joy comes through Jesus Christ.
 - Luke 2:10-11 *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy . . . for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*
 - John 16:20, 22 *"Truly, truly, I [Jesus] say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy. . . . Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you."*
- Joy is produced by the Holy Spirit.
 - Romans 14:17 *For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*
- Joy is enhanced through trials.
 - James 1:2-3 *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.*

"Joy is a gift from God to those who believe the gospel of Christ, being produced in them by the Holy Spirit, because they receive and obey the Word of God while experiencing trials and keeping their hope fixed on the glory which is to come."

—John MacArthur

What motivates me to rejoice?

- The work of Jesus Christ
 - Hebrews 12:2 *Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
- The Holy Spirit's ministry
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7 *For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.*
- Answered prayer
 - John 16:24 *Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.*
- The Scripture
 - Psalm 119:162 *I rejoice at Your word, as one who finds great spoil.*
 - Jeremiah 15:16 . . . *Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart.*
- God's sovereignty
 - Habakkuk 3:17-18 *Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.*

What can steal my joy?

- False expectations
 - No tribulation

1 Peter 1:6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

“A life of communion with God is sufficient to yield consolation in the midst of all [life’s sorrows], and even to produce a holy joy in the soul which shall make it to triumph over all affliction.”
—William Carey

- Earthly success

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, so that no man may boast before God.

“Happiness is emotion tied to things that are happening. . . .
Joy has nothing to do with what is happening.”
—Steve Pettit

- Forgetfulness
 - Psalm 103:2 *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits.*
 - Psalm 119:16 *I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.*
- Self-absorption
 - John 3:30-31 *He must increase, but I must decrease. He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.*
- Ingratitude
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 *In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*
 - Psalm 50:23 *He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me. . .*

“Christian gratitude is joy directed toward God for his grace . . .

The wonderful thing about the gospel is that the response it requires from us for *God's* glory is also the response which we feel to be most natural and joyful, namely, gratitude for grace.

God's glory and our gladness are not in competition.”

—John Piper

- Disobedience
 - John 15:10-11 *“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.”*
- Ignorance of God's character
 - Nehemiah 9:31-32 . . . *For You are a gracious and compassionate God. . . our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness.*

How does a Christian woman exemplify a joyful spirit?

- She lets the Word of God dwell richly in her.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:12-13 *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.*
- She is willing to have an intimate, trusting relationship with God.
 - Romans 8:15-16 *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.*
- She lets the Bible reveal Christ to her.
 - John 16:13-14 *"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you."*
- She wants to be guided into God's will.
 - Psalm 143:10 *Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.*
- She is confident in God's strength.
 - Ephesians 3:16 *That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man.*

- She trusts God and cooperates with His goal for her:
 - Endurance, patience (James 1:1-4)
 - Progressive transformation into Christlikeness (Colossians 1:28)
 - Hope (secured promise) of heaven (Colossians 1:3-6)

“The joy and peace of believers arise chiefly from their hopes. What is laid out upon them is but little, compared with what is laid up for them; therefore the more hope they have, the more joy and peace they have.”
—Matthew Henry

- She recognizes that, by God’s grace and the working of the Holy Spirit in her life, the joy of the Lord really is her strength.

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 5:1-5

*For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*

Roman 11:36