

UNWRAPPING THE GOSPEL

Advent sermon series 2023



⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."¹⁰ And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."¹¹ And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."¹² And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

— *Romans 15:8-13*

JOY:

“the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires”

¹⁷“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.”

— *Habakkuk 3:17-18*

I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds.

— *2 Corinthians 7:4*

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

— *Psalm 16:11*

¹⁶Rejoice always (or lit. be joyful!), ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

— *1 Thess. 5:16-18*

Romans 15:13

Source: Joy comes from God.

Cause: Holy Spirit is the fuel of Joy.

Access: Believing/faith is the means through which Joy enters our hearts.

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

— *Romans 15:13*

...received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit

— *1 Thessalonians 1:6–7*

the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of
righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

— *Romans 14:17*

You (God) have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

— *Psalm 4:7*

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

— *Romans 15:13*

Pursuing/Growing In Joy

I. Remember the Gospel

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

— *1 Peter 1:8-9*

“I do not know when I am more perfectly happy than when I am weeping for sin at the foot of the cross.”

— *Charles Spurgeon*

Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

— *Luke 10:20*

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news (gospel) of great joy which will be for all the people;

— *Luke 2:10*

Pursuing/Growing In Joy

1. Remember the Gospel

2. Read the Word

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

— *Psalm 19:8*

Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

— *Psalm 119:111*

Your words were found and I ate them, And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.

—*Jeremiah 15:16*

Pursuing/Growing In Joy

1. Remember the Gospel
2. Read the Word
3. Obey the Word

¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

—*John 15:10-11*



Pursuing/Growing In Joy

1. Remember the Gospel
2. Read the Word
3. Obey the Word
4. Share the Gospel with others

They told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news brought great joy to all the brothers.

—*Acts 15:3*

Romans 15:13

Source: Joy comes from God.

Cause: Holy Spirit is the fuel of Joy.

Access: Believing/faith is the means through which Joy enters our hearts.

“Joy is diminished by walking at a distance from God. If you get away from the fire you will grow cold: the warmest place is right in front of it, and the warmest place for a believing heart is close to Christ in daily fellowship with him.”

— *Charles Spurgeon, sermon on Joy*

You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

— *Psalm 30:11*