

# THE JOY OF THE LORD

January 27, 2019

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Nehemiah 8:1-12; Psalm 113; Luke 4:14-21

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NEHEMIAH 8:10

“And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”  
- This is not the joy \_\_\_\_\_ me. It is the Joy Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ me.

## THERE IS A WORD AWAKENING THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN SLEEPING...

- His people, Israel, returned from Captivity. 70 years.
- Ezra reads: the Book of the Law of Moses. Their Identity.
- They stood. They listened. They worshiped. Small Group Bible study. They wept.

THEY ARE AWAKENED BY THE WORD OF GOD.

- Moved by hearing who are they in God’s hands. GRIEVED.
- “And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

## WHAT WHOM IS GOD’S JOYFUL?

### HIS JOY IS US!

*For the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross”* Hebrews 12:2

The only reason Jesus endured the cross, is because of His joy of reconciliation with you!

Other Scriptures that reflect His joy in us are:

*“And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people”* (Isaiah 65:19)

*“And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.”* Isaiah 62:5

*“I tell you that in the same way, there will be more JOY in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”* Luke 17:15

## JESUS’ JOY IS THE FRUIT OF LOVING RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATING WICKED- NESS

*“You have loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even your God, has anointed you with the OIL OF GLADNESS above your fellows.”* Hebrews 1:9 also Psalm 45:6,7

## HIS JOY CAME FROM HIS DESIRE TO PLEASE THE FA- THER AND FROM ABIDING IN HIM

*“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, that MY JOY MAY BE IN YOU, and that your joy may be full.* John 15: 10

### THEREFORE:

Knowing the joy He feels in having a close relationship with us IS OUR STRENGTH.

## WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A WORD AWAKENING.

- Just as was needed in Joshua’s Day.
- Just as was needed in Nehemiah’s Day.
- Just as was needed in Jesus Day.
- Just as was needed in Protestant Reformation
- The same as is needed NOW.

We have been sleeping in the Word.

It is time for a WORD AWAKENING.

The Collect for this Sunday, January 27th: Epiphany Three  
Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*