

DAILY READING: JOY

The joy of the Lord is my strength. Joy is not a feel-good emotion I have because circumstances are favorable. The joy filling my heart and mind is a natural by-product of the Holy Spirit's work in me. It results from being in right relationship with God, so it is unchanging and everlasting. No matter what happens, I can walk in the joy of the Spirit.

The joy of the Lord is my strength. Because my strength comes from God, I will rejoice no matter what. His joy nourishes me today even when conditions and events leave me feeling empty and unsatisfied. I will be faithful to spend time in His Word and in prayer even when I don't feel joyful. He is faithful to bring new life and joy to those places within me that feel lifeless. My confidence and faith is in Jesus and His promises; He will complete His work in me. Because of His joy in me I rejoice.

I will not allow myself to be drawn into petty issues that rob my heart and mind of the joy Jesus has given me. Instead I will continue to focus on the joy that comes from the forgiveness I have in Him. I have a firm resolve and an unshakable faith in Jesus Christ and my union with Him, and my devotion to Him gives me life. This life in Him gives me an eternal perspective and this perspective gives me great joy. Today I'm going to live in such a way that others will see and know that the joy of the Lord is my strength, so they too can see their life through Jesus' perspective.

I live in joy and expectation as I look forward to His return and experience His Kingdom through my relationship with Him. Because the joy of the Lord is in me, my attitude is the same as that of Christ Jesus. I will not allow the pressures of this day or the guilt of my past to steal my joy, rather I will press on to live the life He has given me. The joy of the Lord is my strength and His strength is my joy.

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Peter 1:8
 "You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy."
 1 Peter 1:8

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ACTIVITY:

Do you have joy in your life? Write out the things in your life that bring you joy! Pray every day and ask God to give you joy. Ask for Him to give you His power and not be afraid to reach out to others in honest communication if you are not experiencing joy.

DAILY STUDY: JOY

DAY 1: Experience God's Joy - 1 Thessalonians 1:6 (Page 905); Job 8:21 (Page 394); Psalm 28:7 (Page 425)

DAY 2: The True Source of Joy - 1 Peter 1:8-9 (Page 934); Psalm 47:1-4 (Page 434)

DAY 3: Joy in Sharing the Good News - Luke 15:7 (Page 798); John 4:36 (Page 812)

DAY 4: Disregard Petty Issues - 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 (Page 870); Nehemiah 8:10 (Page 377)

DAY 5: Filled with Joy - Romans 15:13 (Page 868); Psalm 30:5 (Page 426)

DAY 6: Everlasting Joy - Romans 14:17 (Page 867); Isaiah 35:10 (Page 543)

DAY 7: Jesus and Joy - Hebrews 12:2 (Page 927); Philippians 2:5-11 (Page 900). Read the Daily Reading once again and highlight things that stand out. Answer the three Life Transformation questions for growth in this area. Take time to learn the memory verse.

LIFE TRANSFORMATION QUESTIONS:

1. As you read the Daily Reading, what stood out and why?
2. What action will you take to apply this truth? Be specific.
3. What areas of your life will benefit from this action? How and why?

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