

When God Moves

Choose Joy

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **December 14, 2025**



This third week of our Advent series is a celebration of *joy* and the announcement of “great joy” made by the heavenly host to the shepherds in the Bethlehem fields. This ushered in a new God-season with new invitations, and the shepherds were chosen as the recipients and carriers of the heavenly message of the Savior’s birth. Well, God is moving in the earth today and ushering in a new season with new opportunities. It doesn’t mean each day will be simple, comfortable, or easy. But it is a significant time, and God has placed invitations before each one of us that we can either say yes to or choose to maintain the status quo. Our challenge is to not focus on our circumstances or the surrounding darkness, which will keep us from God’s promises; instead, we want to focus on and celebrate every form of godliness we see, which will satisfy our spirits and fill us with God’s joy. It’s important because God’s joy is the fuel for fulfilling His purposes, enabling us to persevere and overcome. Church, we need to learn to understand the essential and sustaining nature of joy and the role it can play in our lives. Joy is a choice we make each day, so let’s begin the discipline of choosing joy.

How has God invited you to step out of your comfort zone or take a risk?

¹⁰ *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great (megas) joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.* Luke 2:10-11 (NASB[®])

For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Matthew 24:27

Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him. Revelation 1:7

¹³ *"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.* Daniel 7:13-14

Where are some areas in your life where you've felt tension between pursuing the Kingdom of God and other priorities?

I. JOY SUSTAINS

- A. Body, Soul, Spirit
- B. Satisfaction
 - 1. Body: Pleasure
 - 2. Soul: Happiness
 - 3. Spirit: Joy
- C. Spiritual Choices

Deuteronomy 28:47-48 (NASB[®]) ⁴⁷ *"Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things; ⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in the lack of all things; and He will put an iron yoke on your neck until He has destroyed you.*

Isaiah 35:10 (NASB[®]) *And the ransomed of the Lord will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, With everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.*

How do Christians discern whether they're serving the Lord or the enemy in a particular situation? What are some common spiritual battles you've faced, and how did you overcome them?

II. CULTIVATING JOY

A. Joy & the Holy Spirit

Acts 13:52 (NASB[®]) *And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 14:17 (NASB[®]) *... for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB[®]) ²²*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.* ²³

Romans 15:13 (NASB[®]) *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

From your understanding and life experience, what is the difference between joy and happiness?

B. Joy Fuels Endurance

2 Corinthians 7:4 (NASB[®]) *Great is my confidence in you; great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort; I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.*

2 Corinthians 8:1-2 ¹*And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.*

James 1:2-4 (NASB[®]) ²*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

Hebrews 12:2 (NASB[®]) *... 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.*

Think of a time when you experienced joy despite difficult circumstances. What was that like, and what did you learn?

C. The Expression of Joy

Psalm 100:1-3 (NASB[®]) ¹*Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. ²Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. ³Know 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.*

Psalm 32:11 (NASB[®]) *Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.*

What are some things that truly matter to you, and how do you currently express their importance? In what ways can you be more joyful?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we choose to serve You with joy and a glad heart. You have provided great abundance for us. We come before You today rejoicing in Your great strength and mercy. You are our Deliverer, our Redeemer, and the One who secures our future. As we lift our hearts to You, may sorrow and sighing flee away. Holy Spirit, direct our thoughts to the majesty of Almighty God and His expressions of grace toward us. We pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Amen.