

# *Preparing the Way*

Joy





## Joy Defined

- “feeling of great pleasure and happiness”
- synonyms – delight, jubilation, exaltation
- Piper on Christian Joy
  - “Christian joy is a good feeling in the soul produced by the Holy Spirit as He causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the Word and the world.”



## Joy Defined

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





## 1. Designed for Joy

- Created to be a part of life and experience
- Reflection of God in us – brings desire for it and response to it
- a) Joy in Heaven
  - Luke 15:7 “Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”



## 1. Designed for Joy

### b) God Cares about our Joy

- ▶ John 10:9-11 “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”





## 1. Designed for Joy

### c) Jesus Speaks About it

- John 15:11 “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”
- Luke 10:19-20 “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”



## 1. Designed for Joy

### d) David in the Psalms

- Psalm 16:11 “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
- Psalm 4:6-7 “There are many who say, “Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord!” You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.”





## 2. Proclamation of the Angels

Luke 2:10-11 “And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

- a) All People – you and I included
- b) News to bring Great Joy – respond to this
- c) Savior born – Promised redeemer arriving





### 3. Where Christian Joy is Found

a) Through relationship with God

➤ Rom. 15:13 “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.”

➤ Eph.2:4-10 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—



### 3. Where Christian Joy is Found

and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

#### b) Produced by the Holy Spirit

➤ Gal. 5:22-23

➤ Acts 13:52 “And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”





### 3. Where Christian Joy is Found

#### c) Available in all Circumstances

- 2 Cor. 6:10 “as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.”
- Psalm 51:11-12 “Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”



## So What?

1. Designed for Joy to be in your life
  - ▶ people search in temporary places
  - ▶ right pursuit, one place for true joy
  - ▶ bible speaks much about it
2. Message of Angels for Us
  - ▶ news that will bring a response
3. Find Joy in Christ through Holy Spirit
  - ▶ personal response is important
  - ▶ return to the source

