



World Conquerors Church
Where You Discover Who You Were Born To Be!
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2021: THE YEAR TO RE-IMAGINE

The Joy of The Lord Is my Strength

Presented by Pastor Daren L. Barron

Sermon Notes from February 21, 2021

Nehemiah 8:1-12 Good News Translation

1 By the seventh month the people of Israel were all settled in their towns. On the first day of that month they all assembled in Jerusalem, in the square just inside the Water Gate. They asked Ezra, the priest and scholar of the Law which the Lord had given Israel through Moses, to get the book of the Law. 2 So Ezra brought it to the place where the people had gathered—men, women, and the children who were old enough to understand. 3 There in the square by the gate he read the Law to them from dawn until noon, and they all listened attentively. 4 Ezra was standing on a wooden platform that had been built for the occasion. The following men stood at his right: Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and the following stood at his left: Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam. 5 As Ezra stood there on the platform high above the people, they all kept their eyes fixed on him. As soon as he opened the book, they all stood up. 6 Ezra said, "Praise the Lord, the great God!" All the people raised their arms in the air and answered, "Amen! Amen!" They knelt in worship, with their faces to the ground. 7 Then they rose and stood in their places, and the following Levites explained the Law to them: Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, and Pelaiah. 8 They gave an oral translation of God's Law and explained it so that the people could understand it. 9 When the people heard what the Law required, they were so moved that they began to cry. So Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra, the priest and scholar of the Law, and the Levites who were explaining the Law told all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God, so you are not to mourn or cry. 10 Now go home and have a feast. Share your food and wine with those who don't have enough. Today is holy to our Lord, so don't be sad. **The joy that the Lord gives you will make you strong.**" 11 The Levites went around calming the people and telling them not to be sad on such a holy day. 12 So all the people went home and ate and drank joyfully and shared what they had with others, because they understood what had been read to them.

- **Bible verses about joy can help Christians who may be going through a difficult season as a reminder of the calm happiness through faith in God. Joy is rooted in who God is. It is not fleeting or based on circumstances. Worldly possessions, accomplishments, even the people in our lives, are blessings that make us happy and fuel joyfulness. However, the Bible teaches that the**

source of all joy, is Jesus. God's plan from the beginning, the Word made flesh to dwell among us is rock solid, allowing us to navigate difficult situations in the absence of happiness, while sustaining our joy.

- **Scripture encourages us to rejoice in the blessings of our life and give glory to God in all things. "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). True joy can be obtained in the heartfelt gratitude of God's love, mercy and grace!**

Perspective

- **Perspective - your perspective will either become your prison or your passport.**

James 1:2-4 The Message

2-4 Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

- **Promise - God keeps His promises even when we don't.**

Promise

Romans 15:13 Amplified Bible

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you will abound in hope and overflow with confidence in His promises.

Prayer

- **Prayer - The Prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**

Psalm 51:12 New Living Translation

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

John 16:21-24 The Message

21-23 "When a woman gives birth, she has a hard time, there's no getting around it. But when the baby is born, there is joy in the birth. This new life in the world wipes out memory of the pain. The sadness you have right now is similar to that pain, but the coming joy is also similar. When I see you again, you'll be full of joy, and it will be a joy no one can rob from you. You'll no longer be so full of questions. 23-24 "This is what I want you to do: Ask the Father for whatever is in keeping with the things I've revealed to you. Ask in my name, according to my will, and he'll most certainly give it to you. Your joy will be a river overflowing its banks!

Purpose

- **Purpose - If you can't figure out your purpose figure out your passion; for your passion will lead you right to your purpose.**

Romans 14:17-18 The Message

17-18 God's kingdom isn't a matter of what you put in your stomach, for goodness' sake. It's what God does with your life as he sets it right, puts it together, and completes it with joy. Your task is to single-mindedly serve Christ. Do that and you'll kill two birds with one stone: pleasing the God above you and proving your worth to the people around you.

In His Presence!

Acts 2:28 New Living Translation

You have shown me the way of life, and **You will fill me with the joy of your presence.'**

Psalms 16:11 Amplified Bible

You will show me the path of life; **In Your presence is fullness of joy**; In Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore.

How do I get into His Presence? Be Still

Psalms 46:10 Amplified Bible

"Be still and know (recognize, understand) that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations! I will be exalted in the earth."

How do I get into His Presence? Be Transparent

- **Sometimes you can't sense God's presence because there's something blocking the communication between the two of you. He hasn't left (Hebrews 13:5), but your sensitivity to His presence might be affected by unconfessed sin in your life. David, the Psalmist, said, "When I kept silent (about his sin) my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" -- and you forgave the guilt of my sin" (Psalm 32:3-5, emphasis added). If you feel God isn't around because the two of you haven't talked in a while, or because you've avoided the thought of Him for so long, confess to God what's on your heart and mind and ask Him to give you an ear to hear His voice again. First John 1:9 tells us: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." When your fellowship with Him is**

restored, the communication can flow again. So get clean (through the forgiveness of Christ) and let it flow.

How do I get into His Presence? Be Open

Revelation 3:20 King James Version

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

How do I get into His Presence? Be Patient

Psalm 27:14 King James Version

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Isaiah 40:31 King James Version

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew [their] strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; [and] they shall walk, and not faint.

Psalm 130:5 King James Version

I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

Habakkuk 2:3 King James Version

For the vision [is] yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

How do I get into His Presence? Be Thankful

Psalm 95:2 English Standard Version

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

1 Thessalonians 5:17-19 Amplified Bible

17 be unceasing and persistent in prayer; 18 **in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.** 19 Do not quench [subdue, or be unresponsive to the working and guidance of] the [Holy] Spirit.

How do I get into His Presence? Say His Name

- **People around you may be using God's name right and left (as a swear word in anger, or as a thoughtless expression). But Scripture says there is power in the name of Jesus because "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Say His name aloud – as the Answer to all you seek, as the Source to**

calm your soul, as the One whose presence you long for and you will sense the power of His presence...and His peace.

How do I get into His Presence? Sing Him a Love Song

- **God inhabits the praises of His people. Ever wondered why you sometimes feel closer to God when you're in a church service, singing hymns or praise songs? It could be because that's where worship tends to take place. When you start praising Him, regardless of where you are, you'll sense His presence, probably because you're no longer focused on yourself, but on Him. Worship is not limited to singing, but if singing a song of praise to Him gets your mind focused on His presence, do it. When we open the door of our hearts to love Him, He will meet us there.**

How do I get into His Presence? Be Bold

Ephesians 3:12 New Living Translation

Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence.

How do I get into His Presence?...My Joy depends on it!

- **Be Still**
- **Be Transparent**
- **Be Open**
- **Be Patient**
- **Be Thankful**
- **Say His Name**
- **Sing Him a Love song**
- **Be Bold**