

# JOY

## Light of the World | Week 3

Hayden | Dec 11<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> 2025 | Gabe Cleave

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Luke 2:6-11 (NLT)

<sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. <sup>7</sup>She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. <sup>8</sup>That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, <sup>10</sup>but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. <sup>11</sup>The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! <sup>12</sup>And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." <sup>15</sup>When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

**Joy is not a feeling you find, but a perspective you choose**

### **Truth #1 – Joy is a gift from the Lord**

Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 16:11; Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 15:13

### **Truth #2 – We can have joy in all circumstances...even in trials**

James 1:2-4 (NIV); Psalm 30:5 (NLT)

*"Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in all things"*

-Kay Warren

### **4 Ways to experience joy this holiday season**

#### **1) Joy in God's Word**

Psalm 19:7-8 (NLT)

Jeremiah 15:16

"Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart."

John 15:11

"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

## Key Positive Effects of Bible Reading 4+ times per week (15 minutes)

- Feeling lonely drops by 30%.
- Anger issues decrease by 32%.
- Bitterness in relationships (e.g., marriage or parenting) drops by 40%.
- Alcohol consumption decreases by 57%.
- Viewing pornography decreases by 61%.
- Gambling decreases by 74%.
- Sharing faith with others increases by 200%.
- Discipling others increases by 230%.
- Memorizing Scripture increases by 407%.

### **2) Joy in God's works**

Psalm 92:4 (NIV)

For you make me glad by your deeds, LORD; I sing for joy at what your hands have done.

### **3) Joy in God's people**

Philippians 1:3–4 (NLT)

<sup>3</sup> Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. <sup>4</sup> Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy.

1 Thessalonians 2:19–20 (NLT)

### **4) Joy in God's Salvation**

Luke 2:10b-11a (NLT)

"Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. <sup>11</sup> The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born

1 Peter 1:8-9 (NIV)

Luke 10:20b (NIV)

...rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

"The people of God ought to be the happiest people in all the wide world! People should be coming to us constantly and asking the source of our joy and delight."

-A.W. Tozer

Luke 15:7

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