



## Joy

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Greg Wendschlag December 19, 2021

*"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2:8-11*

Joy: "chara" – delight, gladness; rejoice – be delighted, be glad.

*"Joy is delight or gladness arising from the assured possession of a present or future good."*

1. God is joy.

*"The fruit of the Spirit is joy." Gal. 5:22*

*"In your presence is fulness of joy; in your right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Ps 16:11*

2. The emotional side of joy.

*"As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy...My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..." Luke 1:44, 46*

3. The decisions necessary for joy.

Happiness is a temporary response to life's good times.  
Joy is a constant response to God's heavenly promises.

- Decide to obey

*"If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father and remain in His love. I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." Jn. 15:10-11*

- Decide to trust in the midst of trouble

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" James. 1:2-4*

- Decide to reject competing thoughts or feelings.

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: REJOICE!" Phil. 4:4 (cf. Acts 16)*

*"I am not defined by my circumstances. I am defined by my decisions." Steven Covey*

4. The enduring strength of joy.

*"Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb. 12:1-2*

*"Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy." 1 Peter 1:8*

Choose joy!