

Topical Study: Joy
Personal & Spiritual, Transcendent of Circumstances

1A Introduction.

- 1B** Joy is a strong and positive emotional response to an event which is perceived as positive.
- 2B** Joy and rejoicing are major themes in the Bible. The subject is exceedingly broad, encompassing every major category of life experience. Joy is a legitimate expectation in the Christian life.
- 3B** The spiritual viewpoint of the Bible turns the world upside down, so that joy is the norm in circumstances in which the world would not normally rejoice.

2A Connection of Joy to goodness.

- 1B** Proverbs 17:5, 5 He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; He who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.
- 2B** Proverbs 24:17, 17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;
- 3B** 1 Corinthians 13:6, 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;
- 4B** Source of joy:
- 5B** The Spirit, Galatians 5:22, 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- 6B** Future hope, Hebrews 12:2, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- 7B** Christ, 1 Peter 1:8, 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

3A Biblical Words for Joy and Their Nuances:

1B Old Testament:

- 1C** *Samach* usually refers to a spontaneous emotion or extreme happiness which is expressed in some visible and/or external manner.
- 2C** *Simchah* is the corresponding noun to *samach*.
- 3C** *Ranan* is the verbal outburst associated with a joyous occasion.
- 4C** *`alitz* is a synonym to *ranan*, also depicting

2B New Testament:

- 1C** *Chara* is joy in the sense of positive emotional response.
- 2C** *Chairo* is rejoicing, the action of joy.
- 3C** *Sugchairo* means to rejoice in a group.
- 4C** *Aggaliao* indicates an ecstatic rejoicing.
- 5C** *Kauchaomai* is boasting in a personal sense of accomplishment followed by positive emotion.

4A Circumstances for Joy.

1B Divine:

- 1C** At a repentant sinner: Luke 15:7, 7 I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

2C In the Son: Matthew 3:17, 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

2B Personal

1C Marital Joy: Proverbs 5:18-19, 18 Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. 19 As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.

2C At the birth of a child: 1 Samuel 1:26-2:3, 26 And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the Lord. 27 For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. 28 Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord." So they worshiped the Lord there. 1 And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; My horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. 2 "No one is holy like the Lord, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. 3 "Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the Lord is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed.

3C Joy in family: Proverbs 23:24-25, 24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him. 25 Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who bore you rejoice.

4C Joy in the appropriate content and timing of words, Proverbs 15:23, 23 A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!

5C Joy in the fruit of labor:

1D Deuteronomy 30:9, 9 The Lord your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the Lord will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers,

2D Ezra 3:12-13, 12 But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy, 13 so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people, for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the sound was heard afar off.

3D Ecclesiastes 2:24, 24 Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

4D Ecclesiastes 3:22, 22 So I perceived that nothing is better than that a man should rejoice in his own works, for that is his heritage. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him?

6C Joy in military victory:

1D 1 Samuel 18:6, 6 Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments.

- 2D 2 Kings 11:20, 20 So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword in the king's house.
- 3D Psalm 27:6, 6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.
- 7C Joy in righteous leadership: Proverbs 29:2, 2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.
- 3B Spiritual
- 1C At the intervention of God: Exodus 18:9-10, 9 Then Jethro rejoiced for all the good which the Lord had done for Israel, whom He had delivered out of the hand of the Egyptians. 10 And Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh, and who has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians.
- 2C In the feast-remembrances:
- 1D Leviticus 23:40, 40 And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days.
- 2D Numbers 10:10, 10 Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I am the Lord your God."
- 3D Deuteronomy 12:5-7, 5 "But you shall seek the place where the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go. 6 There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. 7 And there you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you and your households, in which the Lord your God has blessed you.
- 3C At the attributes and actions of God: 1 Chronicles 16:8-12, 8 Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! 9 Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! 10 Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord! 11 Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face evermore! 12 Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth,
- 4C At the generous attitude of others: 1 Chronicles 29:1-9:
- 1D The great need and purpose of the temple, v.1, 1 Furthermore King David said to all the assembly: "My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced; and the work is great, because the temple is not for man but for the Lord God.
- 2D David's donation, vv.2-5:
- 1E Building and crafting materials, v.2, "2 Now for the house of my God I have prepared with all my might: gold for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, bronze for things of bronze, iron for things of iron, wood for

things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble slabs in abundance.

- 2E** Special treasures, vv.3-5, “3 Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver: 4 three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses; 5 the gold for things of gold and the silver for things of silver, and for all kinds of work to be done by the hands of craftsmen. Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the Lord?”
- 3D** The donations of the leaders, vv.6-8, “6 Then the leaders of the fathers’ houses, leaders of the tribes of Israel, the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the officers over the king’s work, offered willingly. 7 They gave for the work of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. 8 And whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, into the hand of Jehiel the Gershonite.
- 4D** The joyous response of the people, v.9, 9 Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the Lord; and King David also rejoiced greatly.
- 5C** At the reading of God’s Word: Nehemiah 8:8-12:
- 1D** The reading and interpretation, v.8, 8 So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.
- 2D** The prohibition against weeping, v.9, 9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep.” For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.
- 3D** The command to celebrate, v.10, 10 Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”
- 1E** *Ma’uz* is strength in the sense of refuge in a time of trouble – from hail, from enemies, from whatever hazard big or small.
- 2E** When you are in a time of adversity, it is especially proper to rejoice because that gives you strength.
- 3E** The strength is the knowledge that the Lord is in control; this strength is redoubled by the emotion of joy.
- 4E** Strength also brings joy; Psalm 21:1, 1 The king shall have joy in Your strength, O Lord; And in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!
- 4D** The prohibition against grief, v.11, 11 So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.”

- 5D The joy in the understanding, v.12, 12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.
- 6C In the Word: Psalm 119:162, 162 I rejoice at Your word As one who finds great treasure.
- 7C In salvation:
- 1D Psalm 16:8-11, 8 I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
- 2D Romans 5:2, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- 8C In rescue from adversities: Psalm 31:7, 7 I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, For You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities,
- 9C In creation, Psalm 33:1-5, 1 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. 2 Praise the Lord with the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. 3 Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy. 4 For the word of the Lord is right, And all His work is done in truth. 5 He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.
- 10C At the recovery from sin and release from discipline: Psalm 51:7-8, 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice.
- 11C National Joy for Israel:
- 1D At the coming of the Kingdom: Psalm 67:4-7, 4 Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy! For You shall judge the people righteously, And govern the nations on earth. 5 Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. 6 Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. 7 God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.
- 2D At the fulfillment of national purpose: Psalm 106:4-5, 4 Remember me, O Lord, with the favor You have toward Your people. Oh, visit me with Your salvation, 5 That I may see the benefit of Your chosen ones, That I may rejoice in the gladness of Your nation, That I may glory with Your inheritance.
- 3D At the coming of the Messiah, Isaiah 29:19, 19 The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord, And the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel.
- 12C In the gift of life and days: Psalm 118:24, 24 This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.
- 13C At words of goodness from others: Proverbs 12:25, 25 Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.
- 14C In the doing of justice: Proverbs 21:15, 15 It is a joy for the just to do justice, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.
- 15C At the wisdom of others: Proverbs 23:15, 15 My son, if your heart is wise, My heart will rejoice—indeed, I myself;

- 16C** At the success of others:
- 1D** 1 Corinthians 12:26, 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.
 - 2D** 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?
- 17C** At the preaching of the gospel: Philippians 1:18, 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.
- 18C** In spiritual growth: Philippians 1:25, 25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,
- 19C** At face to face reunions:
- 1D** Philippians 1:26, 26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.
 - 2D** 2 Timothy 1:4, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy,
- 20C** In the fellowship of the truth:
- 1D** Philippians 2:2, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
 - 2D** 1 John 1:4, 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.
- 21C** In undeserved suffering:
- 1D** For others: Philippians 2:17, 17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.
 - 2D** Colossians 1:24, 24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,
 - 3D** 1 Thessalonians 1:6, 6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,
 - 4D** James 1:2, 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,
 - 5D** 1 Peter 1:6, 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,
 - 6D** 1 Peter 4:13, 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.
- 22C** In everything: Philippians 4:4, 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!
- 5A** The accompaniment of joy:
- 1B** Music: Nehemiah 12:27, 27 Now at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought out the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings and singing, with cymbals and stringed instruments and harps.
 - 2B** Tears: Nehemiah 8:9, 9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.
 - 3B** Dancing:

- 1C** 1 Samuel 18:6-7, 6 Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. 7 So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands."
- 2C** 2 Samuel 6:12-14, 12 Now it was told King David, saying, "The Lord has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. 13 And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. 14 Then David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod.
- 3C** Psalm 150:4, 4 Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!
- 4B** Fear and trembling: Psalm 2:11, 11 Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling.
- 5B** Eating and drinking:
- 1C** Psalm 104:14-15, 14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the service of man, That he may bring forth food from the earth, 15 And wine that makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man's heart.
- 2C** Ecclesiastes 9:7, 7 Go, eat your bread with joy, And drink your wine with a merry heart; For God has already accepted your works.
- 6B** Prayer: Philippians 1:4, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,
- 7B** Leaping: Luke 6:23, 23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.
- 8B** Laughter, Psalm 126:2-3, 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." 3 The Lord has done great things for us, And we are glad.
- 6A** The product of joy: Proverbs 28:12, 12 When the righteous rejoice, there is great glory; But when the wicked arise, men hide themselves.
- 7A** Some Practical Considerations For Emotion:
- 1B** God made man an emotional creature, but also a creature of conscience.
- 2B** Having a pure conscience is the key to having legitimate emotion.
- 3B** Emotion also strengthens the convictions of the conscience. This also is the power of singing.
- 4B** Emotion can also be a great motivator in life, overcoming inertia. Joy overcomes depression so that the inertia of mental illness is demolished.
- 5B** The corruption of the conscience destroys objectivity and produces evil motivations.
- 6B** Emotion founded on truth is a key to good mental health:
- 1C** Proverbs 15:13, 13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.
- 2C** Proverbs 15:15, 15 All the days of the afflicted are evil, But he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast.

3C Proverbs 17:22, 22 A merry heart does good, like medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.