

# Joy ... in an Age of Outrage

We live in an age of anger, anxiety, and outrage ...

Christianity is about a relationship with God, and it is about a relationship with God that brings \_\_\_\_\_.

The coming of \_\_\_\_\_ is the coming of \_\_\_\_\_!

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.

Luke 2:10-11 (ESV)

That joy is a direct result of \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>13</sup> 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 (ESV)

All the \_\_\_\_\_ did and wrote was for the believers' joy.

<sup>24</sup> Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy ...

- 2 Corinthians 1:24 (ESV)

The whole Christian message from beginning to end is good news of \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>23</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into **the joy of your master.**'

- Matthew 25:23 (ESV)

Joy is not \_\_\_\_\_ for the believer. We are \_\_\_\_\_ to "rejoice".

Finally, brothers, rejoice. (2 Cor. 13:11), Rejoice always. (1 Thess. 5:16), Rejoice in the Lord (Phil 3:1), Rejoice in the Lord always. (Phil 4:4)

*How can an emotion be commanded?*

## Jesus on joy:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>**Abide in me**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that **my joy may be in you**, and that **your joy may be full**.

- John 15:1-11 (ESV)

## Having the **JOY** of Christ ...

Starts with being \_\_\_\_\_ ("clean")

Ultimately, it means being \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.

*Abiding enough to show \_\_\_\_\_ of my root*

*Abiding enough to know and trust \_\_\_\_\_*

*Abiding enough to \_\_\_\_\_ with faith*

*Abiding enough to know I'll always be \_\_\_\_\_*

## It *doesn't* mean that ...

My joy won't sometimes be mingled with \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 6:10)

It won't sometimes be \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 12:2)

It will be \_\_\_\_\_ (it will be *continual*, though!) (John 16:20)