

JOY HAS COME TO YOU

December 17, 2023 Various Texts by Bob Branch
Advent 2023

“The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause **great joy for all** the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” **Luke 2:10-14** (Luke 1:14, 44; 15:5-6; 10:21; John 16:22; 17:13; Phil. 4:1; 1 Thess. 2:20; 2 Tim. 1:4)

BIG IDEA: Jesus brought joy into our world—now God’s joy has flesh. It is the fuel your soul needs to develop into as a healthy human and a healthy disciple of Jesus. It is found and cultivated in relationship with him *and* with others.

Joy /joi/, *n.* a feeling of great pleasure & happiness.

“the human brain develops in a person thru joy and attachment—joy is important for healthy brain development.” He defined joy *relationally* as “someone who is glad to be with me” and “being the sparkle in someone’s eye.” **Allan Schore**

“In Your presence is fullness of joy” **Psalms 16:11** NAS

“You make him glad with the joy of your presence.” **Ps. 21:6** ESV

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.” **Num. 6:24-26**

1. Jesus _____ into our world—now God’s joy has flesh.

“The Word became flesh and took up residence among us, and we saw his glory, glory as of the one and only from the Father, full of grace and truth.” **John 1:14** LEB

“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... [he] is the radiance of God’s own glory, the exact representation of his being...” **Hebrews 1:1-3** (Col. 1:15f)

2. Joy is the _____ your soul needs to develop into as a healthy human and a healthy disciple of Jesus.

“Joy is the surest sign of the presence of God.” **Pierre Teilhard de Chardin**

“I’ve told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature.” **John 15:11** MSG

Do you know how God sees you?

3. Joy is found and cultivated in _____ with him *and* with others.

“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.” **2 Cor. 4:6**

“And we all behold the glory of the Lord with his face revealed, and are changed into his likeness from glory to glory, even by the Spirit of the Lord.” **2 Corinthians 3:18** NMB

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE: How do you fuel up?

- By faith, **look into the face of Jesus** and breath in his delight in you. Inhale his love, his pleasure. Agree with him. “*You love me.*” Keep doing it. Every morning, noon and eve, train your soul to know and experience this.
- **Be generous with your delight to others.** Light up to them. Let them see it. Say it. Beam. Be a joy-expresser, a joy-giver.