

THE JOY OF THE LORD

(Kaikohe C F - Horeke - 29.3.87. E K B)

1. **God's character is joyful.** *Is 65:19, Is 62:5, Lk 15:10, Lk 10:21.* God is love, He is the God of Peace, and His joy is our strength. *Neh 8:10. He rejoices over us with joy. Zeph 3:17.* In His presence is fulness of joy. *Ps 16:11.* He gives us His Word so that His joy may remain in us. *Jn 15:11.* The fruit of His Spirit is love, joy, ... *Gal 5:22.*
2. When we turn to God and are born again by the Holy Spirit, **Christ enters our being, and lives His life in us by the life and power of the Holy Spirit.** *Gal 2:20, Col 1:27, 1Cor 1:30, Ac 2:38,39.* Christ the Lord and King reigns in our heart, and His Kingdom in us is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. *Rom 14:17, Lk 17:21.*

The **fruit** of His Spirit in us is joy. *Gal 5:22.*
The **fulness** of His Spirit is fulness of joy. *Eph 5:18,19*
So we **rejoice** in the Lord always. *Phil 4:4.*
3. There is natural joy and we are thankful for it. It is a joy that depends on good things happening around us. (The radio announcer was talking to a lady who had just won the "Golden Kiwi", and she was laughing with joy so much that he could not get one word from her.)
4. **The joy God gives us is inward. It is in us because God dwells in us.** It is not produced by our own efforts of trying to be joyful, or by happy surroundings. It is God's person in us that is our joy. *1 Jn 4:4, Ac 16:25.* It is in our spirit. *Lk 10:21, Lk 1: 47, Ps 51:12.*
5. We need God's joy because the world system, *Jn 16:33*, which is opposed to God, is going in the opposite direction to God's way, it is anti Christ, *1Jn 2:15-17*, and we have many tests and trials in serving the Lord. *1 Pet 4:12-14, Jam 1:2, 2Tim 3:12, Mat 5:11,12.*
6. **God's joy in us is greater than the trials and gives us the victory.** *Act 16:25,* *Hab 3:17,18, 2 Chr 20:20, Neh 8:10, Is 12:3, Ps 89:15-18, Mat 5:11,12, Jam 1:2, Ps 5:11, Ps 16:11*
7. Sometimes we "lose" the joy of the Lord because of the tests, trials, pressures, sorrows, pains, and burdens. We need, at such times, to turn to God, call on Him, *Rom 10: 13*, and to cast our burdens onto the Lord. *Ps 55:22, Mat 11:28, Ps 37:1,5,7,8, Ps 34:4,6,7,15,19, 1 Pet 5:7.* We can also cast ourselves upon God. He will carry us too. *Is 46:4.*
8. Then we can pray, call on God, stir up our spirit to God *2Tim 1:6,7, sing, Zeph 3:14,15*, and shout too. He will deliver us and bring us through into His joy again, and His victory and strength. *Zech 9:9, Is 55:12, Is 61:10.* He is my strength and song, *Ps 118:14.*

9. God's Word generates joy in us. *Jer 15:16, Jn 15:11*. Also His Spirit generates joy in us. *Gal 5:22, Eph 5:18,19*.
10. Praise and thanksgiving to God is offering the sacrifice of joy to God. *Ps 27:6*, the sacrifice of praise, *Heb 13:15*.
11. **God inhabits the praises of His people, *Ps 22:3*, and praise is a weapon to defeat evil, and Satan's works. *Ps 149:5-9, 2Chr 20:22, Ac 16:25***. Our joyful praise establishes God's Throne and presence in our midst, *Ps 22:3(NKJV)*
12. When the way is hard, and the joy seems far away, gather a few believers with you and start calling on the Lord, in faith, with praise and thanksgiving, until the burdens are lifted and the joy returns. God is pleased when we are living in His joy, *Ps 16:11*. In *Ps 24:7-10*, this is referred to as "lifting up the gates," so that the King of Glory may come in. He is the Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.