

REDISCOVER

CHRISTMAS

GOOD NEWS IN TROUBLING TIMES

Finding Joy in Our Discouragements

The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival,” and the season is marked by expectation, waiting, anticipation, and longing. Advent is not just an extension of Christmas—it is a season that links the past, present, and future.

Advent looks back in celebration at the hope fulfilled in Jesus Christ’s coming, while at the same time looking forward in hopeful and eager anticipation to the coming of Christ’s kingdom when He returns for His people. During Advent we wait for both—it’s an active, assured, and hopeful waiting



Yellowstone is the largest geyser locale, containing thousands of hot springs, and approximately **300 to 500 geysers**. It is home to half of the world's total number of geysers in its nine geyser basins



When you feel
Overwhelmed,
You're spending too
much time with the
world and not enough
time with God...
"HE is our PEACE."

- Micah 5:5



Elizabeth and Mary: Mothers' Joy

- There's a lot of joy throughout the biblical Christmas account, especially early in the account. But it's important to note that this joy isn't separate from pain and disappointment. In fact, much of this joy is born out of long disappointment and grief.
- **Luke 1:5-7**
- **When God shows up or breaks through**
- Luke 1:8-25

**It is amazing how much can happen and often does happen
when God shows up:**

- Hope, Peace and Joy!!!!

God continues:

- Luke 1:26-38
- Luke 1:39-40
- **This is where the joy erupts. Against the past backdrop of discouragement, disgrace, grief, and shame, the joy comes bursting through for these two mothers-to-be.**

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God's Exclamation Point – No Explanation needed!

- Luke 1:46-55

Her joy came bursting through as well, and she sang and praised and thanked God!

1. It's OK to be joyful—and happy.

- Happiness is fleeting and temporary.
- Joy is deeper and more fulfilling.

It's OK to want to be happy and joyful, and it's OK to enjoy those emotions.

2. Joy is our strength.

- Nehemiah 8:9-12
- **Nehemiah is calling the people to remember and return to their relationship with God.**
- Our true source of happiness, joy, and fulfillment comes from Christ.
- **1 Peter 1:8-9**
- The Lord Jesus Christ – you can't see him, **you trust Him**, and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.

3. We can choose joy.

There are a lot of uses of the word *rejoice* in the Bible.

- Rejoice is the verb form of joy. It's the action of feeling or expressing joy and delight.
- RE - means once more, or again, or a return to

James 1:2-4

“You are in charge of your own happiness.”

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Psalm 13

- The Psalms are honest and raw as the writers pour out their feelings in these prayer-like poems and songs. Then we see them transition through the process of remembering and stirring themselves to rejoice and find strength in and from God. This is where and how we find authentic joy.

You Choose.... The Lord Jesus Christ – you can't see him, **you trust Him**, and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.

Nehemiah 8:10 “for the JOY of the Lord is your strength!

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THANK YOU

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