



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

905 Clearfield Street * Morehead, KY 40351 * (606)776-7089 * www.gracemorehead.org

Joy to The World
Mega Joy Brings Mega Victory

Message preached on Sunday Morning, December 10, 2023

Luke 2:8-10

- 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
- 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, ***I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.***

Joy to the world...to all people!

This is the JOY of the Lord! Not just JOY...but MEGA joy! Seriously LARGE joy that leads you through the battle.

NOTE: Not the only time this phrase is used in the Christmas story.

Matthew 2:10 – “When [the wise men] saw the star, they rejoiced with ***exceeding great joy.***”

The LIGHT they received brought that SAME kind of joy to them! Mega joy!

BELOVED: This is the kind of JOY that Jesus came to bring to the earth...to ALL MEN who will accept Him!

Nehemiah 8:10 calls this JOY your STRENGTH!

- * It protects you
- * It enables you
- * It leads you to victory in the face of insurmountable odds!

WE MUST make sure that we never let this JOY become just a cliché...but that we understand it is a FORCE!

Matthew 11:12 – “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, ***and the violent take it by force.***”

We know that you take the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (God) by the force of faith!

HOWEVER: We MUST remember that the FORCE of FAITH (according to James 1) is sustained by JOY! ***Joy is the key to operating consistently in faith!***

REMEMBER: This is not just “joy” or a “happiness” it is a MAJOR/MEGA JOY!

And it will change everything!

Not just regular strength...but EXTRA STRENGTH...or MAXIMUM STRENGTH!

Matthew 8:23-27

- 23 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.
- 24 And, behold, there arose a **great [MEGA] tempest in the sea**, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but **he was asleep**.
- 25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, **saying, Lord, save us: we perish**.
NOTE: They are missing an element that caused the storm to be bigger than what they could handle.
- 26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, **O ye of little faith?** Then he arose, and **rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm**.
 AS long as the little faith was working..the storm was still MEGA!
HOWEVER: As soon as the FORCE of faith showed up...something happened to the MEGA STORM...it turned into MEGA CALM!
 Not just calm...MAJOR CALM! Glass!
- 27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

BELOVED: The force of faith, sustained by MEGA joy, in the middle of a MEGA storm...brought MEGA calm!

If you are going to see MEGA calm with the storms of your life...you will need that force of MEGA faith (sustained by MEGA joy) working in you!

Matthew 15:21-28 (Syrophenician Woman)

- 21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.
- 22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my **daughter is grievously vexed with a devil**.
- 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.
- 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
- 25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.
- 26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.
- 27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.
- 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, **O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt**. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

What did Jesus call her FAITH in the middle of a storm?

NOTE: A storm dealing with your kids...it a bigger storm than other stuff.

"Great" – MEGA! She had MEGA faith because of her persistence in the middle of a bunch of NO's!

BELOVED: What you do in the middle of the battles...even MEGA STORMS...will determine your MEGA ANSWERS (James 1).

2 Corinthians 8:1-2

- 1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;
- 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

PERHAPS this is a MEGA STORM that you can relate to!

It says the churches of Macedonia (could have been Berea, Thessalonica and Philippi)...most like the church at Philippi!

NOTE: History tells us that the Romans took most of the wealth of that region when they conquered the land. So this description was real!

- * **“Great trial of affliction”** – not MEGA, but means the VERY LARGE!
- * **“Deep poverty”** – deep intensity

They were NOT wealthy at this time. Their poverty was deep!

Have you ever had to dig deep to pay a bill or get grocery money?

Their deep had NOTHING!

QUESTION: What were they FULL of in the middle of their MAJOR POVERTY?

ANSWER: Abundance of joy!

NOTE: This isn't the word MEGA, but it is what it means!

“Abundance” – superfluity; super abundance!

They were LOADED UP with joy!

QUESTION: What did JOY cause them to do?

Riches of liberality!

They gave like they were wealthy. Freely! Without hindrance!

2 Corinthians 11:7-9

7 Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?

8 I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.

9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

Philippians 4:15 – “Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.”

YOU MAY SAY: Well, they had to do without...right?

Philippians 4:19 (was written to them) – “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

BELOVED: When you LACK JOY...you will stop giving in the middle of attacks! When you stop giving...Philippians 4:19 is not meant for you to claim!

MEGA JOY will cause you to give in MEGA FAITH and get MEGA MANIFESTATION!

Hebrews 10:35-36

35 Cast not away **therefore your confidence**, which hath great recompence of reward.

36 For ye have **need of patience**, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might **receive the promise**.

“Confidence” – cheerful courage; talk openly about it

BELOVED: You can't operate in faith without this MEGA force of JOY!

(**PERHAPS:** 2 Timothy 3:1 – In the last days perilous times will come...we are going to need JOY more now than ever!)

Increase That Joy

I want to let you know an important way to increase that joy, so that you don't run out in the middle of the MEGA storm!

CHARLES DICKENS: "There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor."

PSYCHOLOGY says...

- * When a friend becomes happy it increases your own chance of happiness by 25%.
- * If you have around happy people...you become happier even if you were not happy to start with.
- * If you have around annoyed and frustrated friends...you will have a hard time getting back to a stable mood...because you will become annoyed and frustrated...even if you were not annoyed or frustrated to begin with.

THEREFORE: Who you hang out with is important.

YOU MAY SAY: Well, Pastor Thad is gonna push us hanging out with each other!

Well, ya! But let's go a step further!

Hebrews 1:9 – "Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, ***hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.***" (Psalm 45:7)
Jesus had MORE JOY than anyone He hung around...at any time!

Psalm 16:11 – "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in ***thy presence is fulness of joy;*** at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

The MORE you hang out with Jesus...the more of that MEGA JOY will be caught! It is contagious!

- * Intimacy with Him. Talk with Him. Love on Him.
- * Worship Him! Lift Him up! Magnify Him!
- * Church!

BELOVED: If you are feeling your MEGA STORM overwhelm you...you KNOW that MEGA JOY is not where it needs to be!

You gotta BUILD IT UP!

Immediately, get into His presence! Begin worshipping...lifting Him up!

Psalm 22:3 – "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel."
He shows up and brings the MEGA JOY with Him!