



DON'T FORGET
JOY

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Message preached on Sunday Morning, April 19, 2026

Habakkuk 3:17-19

- 17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:
18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.
19 The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

BELOVED: One of the greatest things that you will EVER learn to do, in life, is to SMILE during the tough times. SMILE through the battles.
Even greater? To laugh!

IT IS NATURAL to be sad, depressed, anxiety and pouty during tough times.
God tells us there is a better way.

IMPORTANT: There is a time for tears...but the sooner you can change to joy, the quicker your situation changes.

Not necessarily from happiness of the situation...but from the JOY that resides inside of you. The substance of joy.

HAPPINESS is fleeting. It is based on exterior circumstances. It leaves in the middle of tough times.
JOY is secure...it resides in your spirit man. It is based on the Truth. Exterior events have nothing to do with joy.

Galatians 5:22,23 – The fruit of the spirit.

REMEMBER: All fruit comes from seed sown...then grows.
When Jesus takes up residence in your life...so does JOY, therefore it must grow.
(talk about faith comes by the Word...so does joy)

Hebrews 12:2 – “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

NOTICE: Jesus endured the cross and got the victory...because He saw what was in front of Him was worth the joy.
He kept His eyes on the victory...the promises...the plan.

ILLUSTRATION: A big bully has you cornered...he is twice your size and he is mad! He is doing flips and punches...maybe even brought out a switchblade and is doing fancy stuff with it. All meant to get you to fear and be sad.

But behind him comes walking in 5 of the biggest, meanest dudes in the town...who all happen to be your friends...they are all loaded with guns, BIG guns, and attitudes.

What happens to your emotions...your feelings? Are you still afraid? Are you still sad? Nope! Perhaps a smile grows on your face...because you know this is NOT going to end up the way the bully things it is going to end up.

2 Kings 6:8-23 – Look at them there chariots!

- * The king of Syria is ticked off with Elisha because every time he gets ready to make a move against Israel, Elisha tells the king of Israel about them and those plans fail.
- * So, the king of Syria decides to pay Elisha a visit.
- * The king surrounds Elisha's residence and it kind of freaks out his servant. "Oh, no! What shall we do?"
- * Elisha's answer? "Fear not; for those with us are more than those with them."
- * The servant is afraid...sad...preparing for sure defeat and probably death.
- * Vs. 17 – "Then Elisha prayed, Lord, I pray You, open his eyes that he may see. And the Lord opened the young man's eyes, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."
- * **QUESTION:** What do you think the servant did then? Do you think he was still afraid? Do you think he wondered what the outcome would be? Or do you think a smile whipped across his face.
- * He knew that this was not going to turn out like the king of Syria thought it was...and it didn't. (Blindness, lead into Samaria, sent back and they never bothered Israel again)

BELOVED: When you learn the power of JOY...power of the SMILE in tough times...you will never stop!

If you only knew what happens in the Spirit when you rejoice, you would rejoice everyday...you would never stop!

Rejoice isn't about what is happening.
It is about seeing the end result.

ILLUSTRATION: Someone asked Smith Wigglesworth why he is so consistent...never looks different... always looks happy! His reply:

He said "I jump out of bed! I dance before the Lord for at least ten to twelve minutes - high-speed dancing. I jump up and down in my room telling God how great He is, how glad I am to be associated with Him and to be His child." After this he would take a cold shower, read the Bible for an hour, pray for an hour, then open his mail to see what God would have him do that day. He was an extremely remarkable man, totally sold out to God."

He knew that no matter what happened during that day...God's power would show up too. God would also happen during that day!

LAST WEEK we got a faith shot by looking at the life of Abraham...and the power of him SEEING some thing other than going childless.

I want you to notice one more thing in Genesis 17.

Genesis 17:17 – "Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?"

NOW: Many feel that this laughter was just disbelief...and it probably had a hand full of disbelief...but then again...nothing like this had ever happened before. He needed to know for sure.

He laughed!

NOTE: In the next chapter Sarah laughed in total disbelief and God got upset at her...so these laughers were different.

In the middle of his mind racing...HE LAUGHED!

In the middle of the battle...HE LAUGHED!

What do you do in the middle of your battle?

Psalms 27:6 – "And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: **therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy**; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

NOTE: It is not always easy...it takes a sacrifice!

Psalm 68:1-3

- 1 Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered: let them also that hate him flee before him.
- 2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

GUESS WHAT the righteous are doing when the enemy is fleeing and melting?

ANSWER: Being glad and exceedingly rejoice!

One group is having its worst day...the righteous rejoice (they don't get nervous that it may happen to them).

Psalm 63:7 – “Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.”

BELOVED: We are secure IN HIM...so rejoice!

- * What is it looking like around you? Rejoice!
- * But it looks bad? You are safe, so rejoice!
- * But the world is failing? You are in the world, not of the world...rejoice!

Acts 27:25 – “Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.”

REMEMBER: This is during the hurricane-like storm that hit Paul's ship...he heard from God that they would be safe and no life would be lost.

The men in the ship were still scared...totally afraid.

PAUL'S instruction? “Cheer up...I believe God and it shall be just like He said.”

BELOVED: That should be our motto in life!

***“Cheer up! I believe God and
It shall be just like He said.”***

If the devil can't steal your joy...he can't have your goods.

Joy is connected to...

When we read the Bible...we find that when JOY is operating in your life, it connects you to several things.

a.) His Presence!

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.”

b.) His Strength!

Nehemiah 8:10 – “Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

c.) His salvation!

Isaiah 12:3 – “Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.”

“Salvation” – yeshua – deliverance, victory, prosperity, health, salvation
Everything Jesus provided on the cross.

d.) The Holy Ghost!

Romans 14:17 – “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

e.) His medicine!

Proverbs 17:22 – “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.”

f.) **His Word!**

Jeremiah 15:16 – “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.”
Psalms 119:162 – “I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.”

g.) **His Prosperity!**

Psalms 105:37-45

Vs. 43 – “And he brought forth his people with joy, and his chosen with gladness.”
2 Corinthians 9:7 – “...God loves a cheerful giver.”

***Joy, rejoicing and gladness is not an option.
It is a necessity...everyday.***

Philippians 4:4 – “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”

- But I rejoiced yesterday...again, I say rejoice!
- But it didn't seem to work...again, I say rejoice!
- But the situation seemed to get worse...again, I say rejoice!
- But I don't feel like being glad...again, I say rejoice!

Conclusion

James 1:2 – “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.”
“**Count**” – govern, judge, have the rule over!

BELOVED: Whether you respond with joy...or not...is in your control. In your hands! You must do it!
You must build it.