

# Laugh for Joy



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**What's the difference, if any,  
between joy and happiness?**

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## ▶ Isaiah 12 - Songs of Praise for Salvation - (NLT)

**1** In that day you will sing: "I will praise you, O LORD ! You were angry with me, but not any more. Now you comfort me.

▶ **2** See, God has come to save me. I will trust in him and not be afraid. The LORD GOD is my strength and my song; he has given me victory."

▶ **3** With joy you will drink deeply from the fountain of salvation!

▶ **4** In that wonderful day you will sing: "Thank the LORD ! Praise his name! Tell the nations what he has done. Let them know how mighty he is!

▶ **5** Sing to the LORD, for he has done wonderful things. Make known his praise around the world.

▶ **6** Let all the people of Jerusalem shout his praise with joy! For great is the Holy One of Israel who lives among you."

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- ▶ Experiences of happiness and real Joy
- ▶ Happiness – generally based on circumstances, happenings, things places and events.
- ▶ Joy – “The settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation.” Rick Warren
- ▶ “Christian joy is a good feeling in the soul produced by the Holy Spirit, as he causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the Word and in the world.” John Piper

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## Nehemiah 8 v 10b

.....This is a sacred day before our LORD. Don't mourn or weep on such a day as this! Don't be dejected and sad, for the JOY of the LORD is your strength!

Nehemiah and Ezra encourage the people after the re-building of the wall of Jerusalem. They call for a time of celebration

## ▶ Psalm 16 v 11

You will show me the way of life, granting me the JOY of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.  
David celebrates the joy of God's presence.

## Psalm 126 v 3

Yes, the LORD has done amazing things for us! What JOY!  
Part of one of the 15 songs of ascent as the people went up to the temple in Jerusalem.

## Luke 2 v 10

"Don't be afraid", he said, "I bring you good news that will bring great JOY to all the people."

The angels' announcement to the frightened shepherds. The joy of the Saviour to all people

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- ▶ **Sadness will be turned to joy – Jesus’ words**

**John 16 v 20, 22**

**“I tell you the truth. You will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will be suddenly will suddenly turn into wonderful JOY.**

**So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice and no one can rob you of that joy.”**

**Jesus once again reminds the disciples of his death but also the joy that is to come.**

**Acts 13 v 52**

**And the believers were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.**

**The connection of being filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.**

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► Romans 14 v 17

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat and drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and JOY in the Holy Spirit.

Paul speaks this out after the Roman church has been criticising each other about what they should or should not eat. He connects joy and the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15 v 13

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with JOY and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hope, joy and peace come together and can overflow with the power of the Holy Spirit.

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▶ Galatians 5 v 22-23

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, JOY, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. There is no law against these things.”

One of the parts of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 12 v 1b – 2

“And let us run with perseverance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the JOY awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honour beside God’s throne.”

The greatest example of JOY following suffering. The JOY of seeing God’s people reconciled to him as they follow him

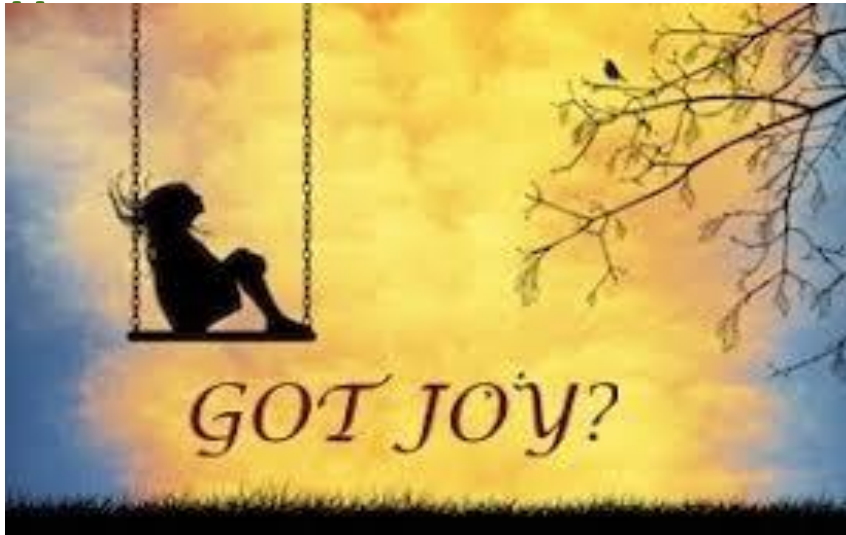
▶ James 1 v 2-3

“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great JOY. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.”

James is writing to the persecuted Jewish churches, which had been scattered abroad.



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