

OPENING SCRIPTURE

"The joy of the Lord is my strength".
Nehemiah 8:10

PRAYER

Father, I pray that You will fill me with the joy of the Lord, that overwhelming joy that comes from knowing you. Your joy is unlike anything this world has to offer. It brings peace, trust and hope and with that, rest because I know that you are in control. Your word says that we are not to be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is our strength! So I will lift my eyes to you Lord because I know that from you alone comes my joy and peace. Thank you Father for your great love. Amen.

BIBLE VERSES

"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you". John 15:10-12

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy: at your right hand are pleasures forevermore".

Psalm 16:11

"For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wing I will sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me".

Psalm 63:6-7

"You will go out with joy and be lead forth in peace, the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you and all of the trees of the field will clap their hands". Isaiah 55:12

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law". Galatians 5:22-23

HYMN VERSE

When Isaac Watts wrote this hymn, which is now associated with Christmas, he was actually writing a hymn that celebrated the second coming of Jesus.

Joy to the world the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King:
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heav'n and nature sing,
And Heav'n and nature sing,
And Heav'n and Heav'n and nature sing

PRAYER

Abba Father, as long as I am on this earth, I know that some troubles will come my way, but I ask that You help me to rest in You. Help me to have that joy and peace in my life so that I will be able to smile through any storm, confident that I will come out stronger for it. Help me not to look at the things that trouble me, but to look directly at you. Amen

SHORT REFLECTION

It is good to remember that there is a difference between happiness and joy. Happiness is based on our circumstances, the things around us that can make us happy or sad; but joy is based on our everlasting relationship with Jesus. No matter how we are feeling, or what is going on in our lives when we know Jesus we will always have the joy of the Lord present within us.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, sometimes I long for that unbridled joy of childhood. I remember how it felt to pedal my bike fast, wind whipping through my hair, without a care in the world. I long for the innocence of seeing life through a child's eyes, to laugh, to sing to play again. With each passing year I can feel that my joy has been pushed deeper down inside me.

But Jesus, you show me that true joy is found in more than just worldly happiness. It is in your creation, in the beauty of the earth. It is in a smile, a kind word, a laugh and a song. But most of all joy is found in worshipping and knowing you. Worldly happiness is temporary, but your joy is eternal. It exists no matter what my circumstances may be. It is found in my relationship with you, in discovering new things about you every day. Thank you dear Jesus for your joy. Amen

HYMN

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and Heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Henry Van Dyk 1907

This hymn is usually sung to the music for 'Ode to Joy' from Beethoven's ninth symphony

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You are our salvation and our joy. We thank you for the new life and power that we have through Your death and resurrection because we know that true joy can only come by Your Spirit working in us. Amen

FINAL BLESSING

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope".

Romans 15:13



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**HOME
PRAYER**

JOY