

### CHRISTMAS GIVES US JOY

*When they saw the star, they were filled with great JOY! <sup>11</sup>They entered the house where the child and his mother, Mary, were, and they fell down before him and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Matthew 2:10-11 (NLT)

❖ Christmas is the Season of Joy:

*In a loud voice Elizabeth exclaimed to Mary: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for JOY."*

Luke 1:42-44 (NIV)

*"Joy is a delight of the mind arising from the consideration of a present or assured possession of a future good. It is found in the knowledge that my life is set on a foundation that will never waver or change because that foundation is God."*

Holman/Unger Bible Dictionaries

1. Because His joy is available for ALL PEOPLE.

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great JOY that will be for all the people."*

Luke 2:10 (NIV)

2. Because those that CHOOSE Jesus will be FILLED with JOY.

*Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, "This child will be rejected by many in Israel, and it will be their undoing. But he will be the greatest JOY to many others."*

Luke 2:34 (NLT)

3. Because when someone is SAVED all of HEAVEN has a PARTY.

*"Count on it—there's more JOY in heaven over one sinner's rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue."*

Luke 15:7 (MSG)

❖ Recognizing When I Have Lost My Joy:

*"Restore unto me the JOY of my salvation..."*

Psalms 51:12 (NIV)

1. Step 1 - I have to REALIZE I have LOST IT.

*"Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?"*

Psalms 42:5a (NIV)

2. Step 2 - I need to ANALYZE the CAUSE of losing my JOY.

*Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.*

Lamentations 3:40 (NIV)

3. Step 3 - I must take the TIME to work on CORRECTING the PROBLEM.

*"When you obey me, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you this so that you will be filled with my JOY. Yes, your JOY will overflow!"*

John 15:10-11 (NLT)

4. Step 4 - I will decide to FOCUS on the GOOD and RELEASE the NEGATIVE.

*"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with JOY."*

Psalms 126:3 (NIV)

5. Step 5 - I have to SPEND TIME with and WORSHIP GOD daily.

*"Your words are what sustain me. They bring me great JOY and are my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty."*

Jeremiah 15:16 (NLT)

6. Step 6 - I begin to get my JOY BACK as I practice GIVING BACK.

*It is God himself who has given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others.*

Ephesians 2:10 (LB)

7. Step 7 - I experience the greatest sense of joy as I TELL OTHERS about JESUS.

*"I tell you there is more JOY in heaven over one sinner who changes his heart and life, than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to change."*

Luke 15:7 (NCV)

❖ Closing Truth: The greatest joy on EARTH is taking someone with you to HEAVEN.

*In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)