

PREPARING FOR 2022 WITH JOY

When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!

Matthew 2:10 (NLT)

❖ Christmas is the Season for Joy:

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

Luke 1:42-44 (NIV)

1. Because His joy is made 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 Him 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 HEAVEN has a JOYOUS 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 51:12a (NIV)

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)

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)

- Recognizing all the KILL-JOYS in my Life:
 - 1) When I am controlled by an OUT of CONTROL SCHEDULE
 - 2) When I am living with an UNCONFESSED SIN
 - 3) When I am underestimating an UNRESOLVED CONFLICT
 - 4) When I am wasting an UNUSED TALENT
 - 5) When I am surviving with an UNDERNOURISHED SPIRIT
 - 6) When I allow in my life UNDERMINING MESSAGES

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. I have told you this so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!"

John 15:10-11 (NLT)

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)

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)

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)

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.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

Philippians 4:8 (NIV)