

Don't Let Anyone or Anything Steal Your Joy in 2023

Read Time: 3 Minutes 22 Seconds

As we look back on 2022, many of us feel as though we have passed through the eye of a needle. Many of us had to face things that took incredible faith and courage .

I make a habit of telling people not to let anyone or anything steal their joy because "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh. 8:10).

I use this verse often to encourage dear friends and family members who are facing seemingly hopeless situations with their health, marriage, their children, parents, finances and co-workers.

Yes, the times we are living in can seem dark and dim. It almost feels as if the sun itself doesn't shine as brightly as it once did as the trials mount up on the world stage and even in our own homes, each and every day, with great acceleration.

You may be thinking, "How can I look to God as my source of joy and how can that joy strengthen me enough to keep soldiering through these tumultuous times?"

As a Christian, the answer comes easy. It is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that enables you to choose joy. This kind of joy is not dependent upon the fickleness and unpredictability of this world. First Thessalonians 5:16-18 clearly lays out God's will for us in Christ Jesus. We are to "rejoice always, pray continually and give thanks in ALL circumstances."

When we rejoice even when the world tries to throw everything it has at us, we are experiencing supernatural joy. You will

know you have it when you can rejoice whenever you face these present trials of all kinds and consider them merely a “test of your faith.” The testing of your faith creates perseverance which will mature you in your walk with God and rejoicing in these tests will strengthen you with the power of God.

Your takeaway? Pure spiritual joy is a deeply rooted, God-inspired happiness. This is the fullest expression of joy possible. God’s supernatural strength is a form of protection, safety and refuge that no one or no thing can penetrate.

So, when I tell my readers to never let anyone or anything steal their joy, it is a reminder that with God, it is impossible for it to happen.

✘ Jesus Himself experienced joyful fulfillment that came from the strength of God the Father. He prayed that you and I would be filled and overflowing with this kind of joy as well (John 15:11).

May we all walk in the joyful, abundant life His death and resurrection affords us now, and in the coming new year. Let the joy of the Lord radiate through us and from us encouraging all we come into contact with in the days ahead. Amen.

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