

Unspeakable Joy

Joy is based on certain truths that we are confident in and not the situations that we encounter.

Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. James 3:10

True and lasting joy is the result of Jesus' presence in our lives.

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Luke 16:13

True joy in Christ can only happen when we embrace the full realities of both aspects of Christ's character: Savior and Lord.

Three personal practices to increase our joy

1. Receive Jesus as king.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. Luke 2:4-7

2. Prepare room for Jesus.

3. Employ a new song.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, 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

(slides only) *"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear."* Buddy the Elf

God is an unending source of joy where the more you experience Him the greater your joy increases.

***"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*
Matthew 11:28**