

Command of Christ → "Rejoice"  
Text: Matthew 5:12

You can rejoice when you know where your reward is! (Luke 6:23)

- Joy is a spiritual force that we can access – that comes from knowing who we are in Christ. (see Luke 10:19, 20)
- Whether or not we rejoice is not determined by what is happening to us!
- We can rejoice "in the Lord!" (Philippians 4:4)

Re-joyce → to "joy" again.

- Hebrew
  - Shout; blast; signal; alarm; sound of a tempest; battle-cry; war-cry;
  - Gladness; exaltation
- Greek – to be exceedingly glad; to be well; to thrive

Joy is a sign of strength. (Nehemiah 8:10)

- When we lose joy we become weak.
- The joy of His reward is what gave Jesus the strength to endure the cross! (Hebrews 12:2)
- Joy is what empowers us in times when our faith is being tried. (1 Peter 1:6-8)
- James 1:2 – "*Count it all joy...*" [Why?]
- Joy in suffering for Christ. (1 Peter 4:13)

Joy is a kingdom commodity [along with peace and righteousness]. (Romans 14:17)

- There is joy in the presence of the Lord. (Psalm 16:11)
- Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. [It has to be cultivated through maturity.] (Galatians 5:22)

Joy is a bucket that we use to draw from the well of salvation. (Isaiah 12:3)

- Compare with NT John 7:38 – "*...out of his belly shall flow...*"

Joy is like a garment. (Psalm 30:11; Isaiah 61:3 – garment of praise)

- A sacrificial offering in the house of God. (Psalm 27:6; 32:11)