

# “The Reason for Hope!”

## ‘Joy has come’

### Luke 2:28-56

Pastor Dan

“All Joy reminds. It is never a possession, always a desire for something longer ago or further away or still “about to be.”

-C.S. Lewis

**The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “Joy”:**

1: a feeling of great pleasure or happiness that comes from success, good fortune, or a sense of well-being : [GLADNESS](#)

2: something that gives joy

**In the Bible, the Hebrew and Greek language has two good words for Peace: (Bible Project)**

**JOY** (הִשְׂמֵחָה, *simchah*; χαρά, *chara*). Closely related to gladness and happiness, although joy is more a state of being than an emotion; a result of choice. One of the fruits of the spirit ([Gal 5:22-23](#)). Having joy is part of the experience of being a Christian.

#### 1.) Joy comes when we submit our lives to God's plans! Luke 2:28--45

A. The favor of the Lord is better than all of the possessions this world has to offer! V28

a. Mary found favor with the Lord because she was obedient to Him.

- b. That favor could give her peace even when her heart was troubled.
- B. The Lord's plans don't often make sense to us, but we can trust in His character and might! V29-37
  - a. God's plan didn't make sense to Mary at the time, but she was willing to trust Him.
  - b. She was reminded by the angel that no word of the Lord will fail!
- C. Ultimately Mary could have joy because she knew her position before the Lord as His servant! V38
- D. In verse 44 we see that even John the Baptist while inside his mother's womb leaped for Joy because of the coming of the Messiah!

**2.) Joy does not fade in the midst of trials and hardships!; Habakkuk 3:17-18,**

*“The difference between shallow happiness and a deep, sustaining joy is sorrow. Happiness lives where sorrow is not. When sorrow arrives, happiness dies. It can't stand pain. Joy, on the other hand, rises from sorrow and therefore can withstand all grief. **Joy, by the grace of God, is the transfiguration of suffering into endurance, and of endurance into character, and of character into hope—and the hope that has become our joy does not (as happiness must for those who depend up on it) disappoint us.**” –[Walter Wangerin Jr.](#)*

- A. We can have Joy amid trials because it grows our faith. James 1:2-4

- B. Joy is not dependent upon possessions or wealth, it is found and sustained in a faithful God. (Hebrews 13:5)
- C. Even when it seems like you have nothing you can have joy. (Habakkuk 3:17-18)

**3.) True Joy comes from the hope and peace we get from a faithful God. Romans 5:5**

- A. When we give back to the Lord that which belongs to him anyway it brings joy to the heart of God and others! (Deuteronomy 26:1-11)
- B. The Joy of the Lord becomes our strength! (Nehemiah 8:8-10)
- C. We can have joy because God is God and we aren't! (Psalm 96:11-13)
- D. We can run this life of Joy because of others who have went before us and had the same, hope, peace, and joy. \* Hebrews 12:1-2

**Closing Questions!**

- 1.) Do you have Joy in your life?
- 2.) Is your Joy dependent upon your circumstances or is it focused on the anticipation of God working in and through you?
- 3.) What is holding you back from Joy this Christmas?
- 4.) Is there something missing in your life today?