Joy in Christ

Meditations,
prayers,
scripture, and
recorded new hymns
for
public worship and
personal devotions

from the series:

Fresh Views of Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

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Isaiah 12:2-6

(NASB)

Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the Lord God is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation."

Therefore you will joyously draw water
From the springs of salvation.
And on that day you will say,
"Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name.
Make known His deeds among the peoples;
Make them remember that His name is exalted."
Praise the Lord in song, for He has done glorious things;
Let this be known throughout the earth.
Rejoice and shout for joy, you inhabitant of Zion,
For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Father, You Are My Joy

```
I cannot control the
      evil and
      injustice
that flood my world.
I cannot erase all the problems,
      big and
      small,
that pressure my days.
My heart is weighed down by my
      weakness and
      uncertainty.
But I look to You:
      almighty,
      all-wise,
      all-loving God,
pure,
      unchanging,
      high and lifted up,
always right, and
      always,
      always
      good.
Father,
      YOU are my joy.
      YOU are my rock-solid stability.
I look to YOU, and
Smile.
```

Hymn Recording: My Father, My Joy

My Father, My Joy



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CCLI Song #7157779.

FULLNESS OF JOY 5.4.5.4.10.10.

Psalm 84

(NASB)

How lovely are Your dwelling places,

Lord of armies!

My soul longed and even yearned for the courtyards of the Lord;

My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

The bird also has found a house.

And the swallow a nest for herself, where she may put her young:

Your altars, Lord of armies,

My King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in Your house!

They are ever praising You. Selah

Blessed is the person whose strength is in You,

In whose heart are the roads to Zion!

Passing through the Valley of Baca they make it a spring;

The early rain also covers it with blessings.

They go from strength to strength,

Every one of them appears before God in Zion.

Lord God of armies, hear my prayer;

Listen, God of Jacob! Selah

See our shield, God,

And look at the face of Your anointed.

For a day in Your courtyards is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God

Than live in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield:

The Lord gives grace and glory;

He withholds no good thing from those who walk with integrity.

Lord of armies,

Blessed is the person who trusts in You!

The Joy of Your Presence

Inspired by Psalm 84

```
O Father, how I love being in Your presence!
When I realize that I am with You,
all I am sings for joy,
      body,
      mind, and
      spirit.
You are infinitely above me
      in excellence,
      in power, and
      in holiness.
Yet when I am with You, I sense that
      this is where I belong.
I know a freedom,
      a rightness,
      a rest in You.
This life is not easy, Father.
The needs never end.
There is weariness,
      darkness, and
      deep sorrow.
But when I realize that all of life is a journey to You,
      everything changes!
Weariness turns to praise.
Darkness shines with Your unfailing goodness.
Sorrow is matched with an inexpressible joy.
Your presence lights my pathway every day.
But what is more.
      You Yourself are the heaven toward which I travel.
O Father, absorb my
      every thought and
      every desire.
You are my joy,
      now and forever!
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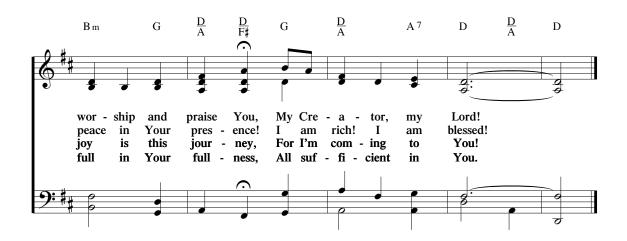
Hymn Recording: Psalm 84

Psalm 84



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7.6.7.6.6.6.7.6.



Psalm 92

(NASB)

It is good to give thanks to the Lord
And to sing praises to Your name, Most High;
To declare Your goodness in the morning
And Your faithfulness by night,
With the ten-stringed lute and with the harp,
With resounding music on the lyre.
4 For You, Lord, have made me joyful by what You have done,
I will sing for joy over the works of Your hands.

How great are Your works, Lord!
Your thoughts are very deep.
A stupid person has no knowledge,
Nor does a foolish person understand this:
When the wicked sprouted up like grass
And all who did injustice flourished,
It was only that they might be destroyed forevermore.
But You, Lord, are on high forever.
For, behold, Your enemies, Lord,
For, behold, Your enemies will perish;
All who do injustice will be scattered.

But You have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil.

And my eye has looked at my enemies,
My ears hear of the evildoers who rise up against me.
The righteous person will flourish like the palm tree,
He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
Planted in the house of the Lord,
They will flourish in the courtyards of our God.
They will still yield fruit in advanced age;
They will be full of sap and very green,
To declare that the Lord is just;
He is my rock, and there is no malice in Him.

Seeing God's Glory

Exodus 33:18-19; 34:5-7; Psalm 16:11; 27:1; 118:14

```
Father,
I bow in Your presence.
I look up and cry
with all my heart:

"The Lord!
The Lord!
```

The eternal, unchanging God, compassionate, gracious, patient and

forgiving,

overflowing with love and

faithfulness!

You are my light and

my salvation!

You are my strength and

my song!

You, O glorious God,

are my fullness of joy!"

Hymn Recording: The Glow of Your Goodness

The Glow of Your Goodness

Exodus 33:18-19; 34:5-7; Psalm 16:11; 27:1; 118:1; John 15:11; 17:13



WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

MACPHERSON 12.11.12.4.4.7.

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Zephaniah 3:14, 17

(NASB)

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, Israel! Rejoice and triumph with all your heart, Daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will rejoice over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.

God Gives Himself

"Lo, I am with you always". (Matthew 28:20, NASB)

```
God does not promise an easy road.

He promises Himself.

And He Himself is all that we seek.

He is peace,
deep well-being,
right in the midst of the storm:
He Himself is our peace. (Ephesians 2:14, NASB)
```

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7, NASB)

```
God is joy,
```

even as sorrow fills our hearts.

When Jesus was only moments away from the greatest physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual suffering that any human has ever faced,

what was He eager to share with His friends?

His fullness of joy.

"These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full." (John 15:11)

God is good.

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His faithfulness is everlasting. (Psalm 136:1, NASB) God is always, always, always good.

```
He promises to be with us always, with all that He is – unshakable peace, irrepressible joy, unbounded goodness.
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He is with you now. Praise His name!

Hymn Recording: Almighty God, You Never Change

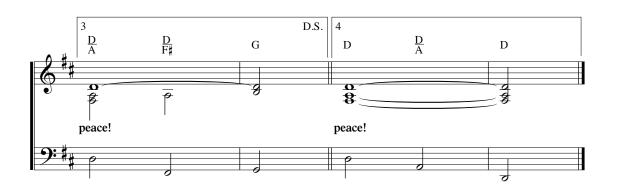
Almighty God, You Never Change

Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 102:24-27; 136:1; Malachi 3:6; John 14:27; 15:11; Ephesians 2:14; Philippians 4:6-7; Hebrews 13:8



MUSIC: African-American Spiritual and Ken Bible

GOT A HOME IN THAT ROCK 2 8.3.8.3.7.7.7.3.



Psalm 96:11-13

(NIV)

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Joy at His Coming

At the coming of Christ,

Abraham rejoiced (John 8:56);

John the Baptist rejoiced, though still in his mother's womb (Luke 1:44);

Mary rejoiced (Luke 1:46-47);

the magi rejoiced (Matthew 2:10); and

the angels of heaven rejoiced (Luke 2:10-14).

The coming of Christ was

"good news of great joy which will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10, NASB).

But not only was His coming joy to all the human race,

it was joy to all creation.

Just as our separation from God brought suffering and death to us,

it brought suffering and death to all creation.

And as creation shared our fall,

it will share our redemption.

The creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. (Romans 8:19-22, NIV)

So it's no wonder that the Old Testament repeatedly proclaims that at the coming of Christ, all creation bursts into jubilant rejoicing:

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.
Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.
Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes,
he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples in his faithfulness. (Psalm 96:11-13, NIV)

Jesus Christ has come, and

He is coming again to gloriously complete all He has started. Let all that is, praise Him and sing for joy!

Hymn Recording: Advent Joy

Advent Joy Psalm 96:11-13; 98:7-9 Like a folk dance = 64 $\frac{F_m}{A_{\flat}}$ $\frac{Fm^6}{A^{\flat}}$ $\tfrac{C\,m}{G}$ G^7 F#º7 CmG N.C. Cmpraise 1. Hear the lift its With a song of bril liant star up 2. All the moun-tains clap their hands And the dis - tant lands re 3, 4. See cre - a - tion all made new the light per fect $\frac{F}{G}$ G G G+ G CmN.C. light. Hear the whis - per of the night, Ech - o - ing the joice. Now the earth be gins to dance, Sway-ing to the See His His His peace. peo - ple all own, Ho - ly in F G G G+ G^7 CmN.C. G Add - ing frain. It's mel - o - dy of joy, a re a Caught up tune, the praise. All a - tion moves in cre as love, Glow - ing bride. Now the feast of life be as a 4th time to Coda D.C. ||2,3| $\frac{Fm^6}{A^{\flat}}$ $\frac{F_m}{A_p}$ $\frac{Cm}{G}$ $C\, m$ G^7 C_{m} CmGod For the Lord come! hope, has our

WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Bernard de La Monnoye and Ken Bible

For the Lord

For the Lord

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our

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PAT-A-PAN 2 Irregular

come!

come!

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has

has

8



Isaiah 35

(NIV)

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there;
it will be called the Way of Holiness;
it will be for those who walk on that Way.
The unclean will not journey on it;
wicked fools will not go about on it.
No lion will be there,
nor any ravenous beast;
they will not be found there.
But only the redeemed will walk there,
and those the Lord has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;

everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

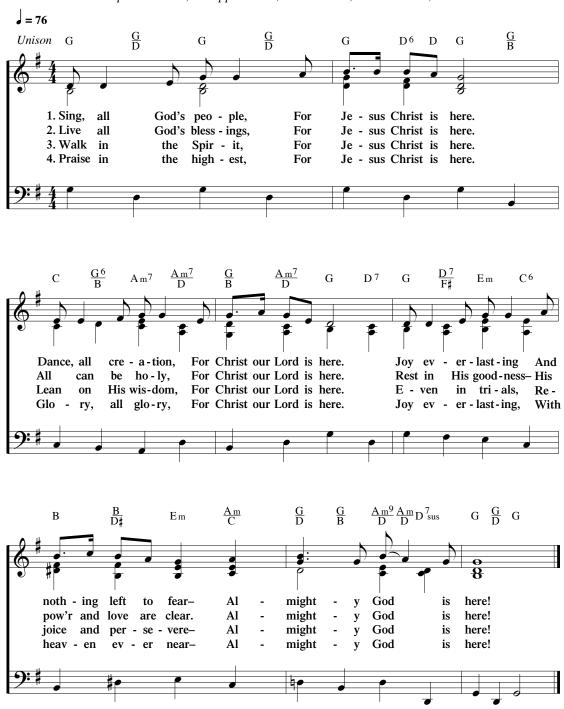
Rejoice! Christ Is Here!

```
Almighty, holy God is with us
in all His
       power,
       wisdom, and
       love.
He has come to us in Jesus Christ.
He has poured out on us
       His own Spirit,
       His own eternal life.
All that He is -
       holy,
      almighty,
       all-loving,
      pure joy -
is with us and
       among us and
       infilling us.
Breathe His everlasting joy!
Walk in His Spirit.
Live His beautiful holiness.
Even as hardship tests your faith,
       rejoice!
       You are immersed in all His blessings!
       You are bathed in all He is!
```

Hymn Recording: Rejoice! Christ Is Here!

Rejoice! Christ Is Here!

Psalm 16:11; 23:1; 96:11-13; Isaiah 9:3; 35:1-2, 10; 49:13; Matthew 5:10-12; Romans 5:1-5; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 1:3; Philippians 4:4; James 1:2-5; 1 Peter 1:6-9, 14-16



DO, LORD 2

5.6.5.6.5.6.6.

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: African-American Spiritual and Ken Bible

Psalm 16:8-11

(NASB)

I have set the Lord continually before me;
Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will dwell securely.
For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol;
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.
You will make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Joy

The greatest joys of the world can't be compared to those experienced with God.

As we feed ourselves on thoughts of Him, as we establish continual conversation with Him, as our relationship grows, we find great joy in simply being with Him.

We embrace Him with all we are.
As we do, His love lights a flame of love and joy in the center of our heart.

Our souls find
complete satisfaction in their Maker.

Lest we should turn again to the things of earth,
God is careful to provide our souls with
unexpected pleasures and
undeserved delights.

In His abundance, we need
fear nothing nor
seek nothing
but Him alone.

Hymn Recording: I Find All My Joy in You

I Find All My Joy in You



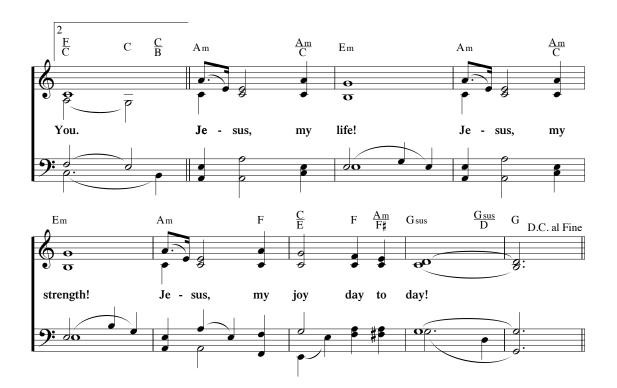
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ALL MY JOY Irregular



Philippians 4:4-7

(NASB)

Rejoice in the Lord always;
 again I will say, rejoice!

Let your gentle spirit be known to all people.
 The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by
 prayer and
 pleading
 with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God,
 which surpasses all comprehension,
 will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

(NASB)

Rejoice always,
pray without ceasing,
in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God for you
in Christ Jesus.

Unchanging Joy

Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemiah 8:10, NASB)

I wrote this hymn out of deep grief. On February 20, 2015, our 38-year-old son, David, took his own life. It was totally unexpected, and we were overwhelmed with a sorrow we had never experienced.

As the months passed and the grief still shrouded our souls, I tried my normal way of processing thoughts and feelings: I attempted to write about my grief. But when I did, the river of sorrow within me overflowed and engulfed me. Writing about my grief only made it worse.

Eventually I began to realize that God was calling me to focus, not on grief, but on joy. He was teaching me to live in joy, even when flooded with deepest sorrow. He prodded me to write about, and sing about, the joy that is always mine in Christ. Situations change, often beyond our control. But Jesus Christ does not change. Who He is in us and who we are in Him is right now our bright, eternal, all-encompassing reality. Christ is our unchanging joy, springing up forever, refreshing us whenever we obey the Bible's urgent reminder to, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4, NASB)

When Jesus was in the darkest hours of His life, facing trial, torture, and execution, He spoke to His disciples about His fullness of joy. He longed to share with them His deep joy in the midst of sorrow.

"These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full." (John 15:11, NASB)

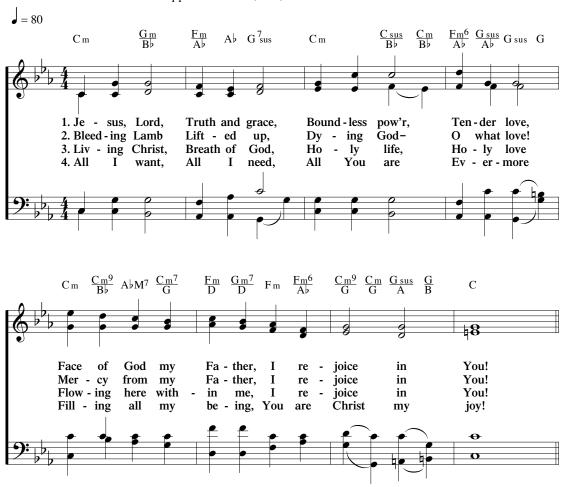
During my time of grief, our loving Father is teaching me to drink deeply of Jesus Christ, my always and forever fountain of joy. This hymn was written primarily for myself, as a way to daily rejoice in Christ. I gladly share it with you.

--Ken Bible

Hymn Recording: Christ My Joy

Christ My Joy

Nehemiah 8:10; John 15:11; 17:13; Romans 14:17; Philippians 2:17-18; 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



WORDS & Music: Ken Bible CHRIST MY JOY 3.3.3.3.6.5.

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John 15:11

(NASB)

"These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."

John 17:13

(NASB)

[Jesus praying to His Father:]
"Now I am coming to You; and
these things I speak in the world so that
they may have My joy made full in themselves."

Fullness of Joy

My tears have been my food day and night. O my God, my soul is in despair. All Your breakers and Your waves have rolled over Me. (Psalm 42:3, 6, 7, NASB)

Father, grief and sorrow have come in like a flood, and I am overwhelmed.

Tears are my constant companion.

I need joy, the joy that comes only from You, but I cannot grasp it.

Father, now I am ready to hear the words of Christ.

Now I am ready to look hungrily at His example.

Hours before His arrest, torture, and brutal execution,
what was He so eager to share with His disciples?

The fullness of His joy:

"These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full." (John 15:11, NASB)

"[Father,] now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves." (John 17:13, NASB)

Jesus stood on the brink of the greatest physical, emotional, and spiritual assault any human has ever faced.

What strengthened Him, encouraged Him, and drew Him on? His fullness of joy.

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1b-2, NASB)

Jesus endured every humiliation that unbridled hatred could throw at Him, yet He despised the shame.

He considered it unworthy of consideration in light of the joy set before Him.

Father, Jesus found His joy in You, in knowing You, pleasing You, and

glorifying You.
Father, You are the fullness of joy for me as well.
With Jesus, I seek,
not joy,
but You.

Hymn Recording: Fullness of Joy

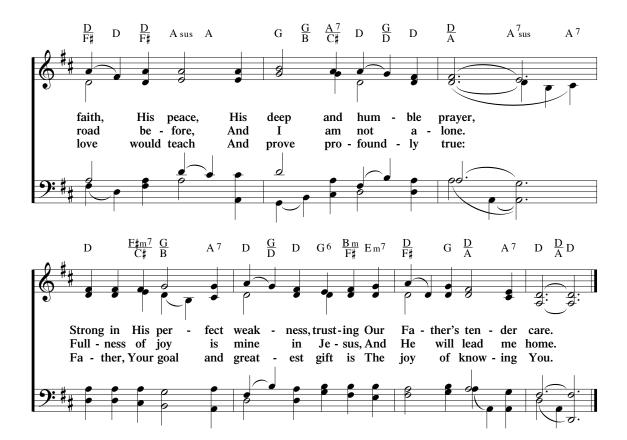
Fullness of Joy

TUNE: Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes (ADORATIO, alt.) *John 15:11; 17:13; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Philippians 3:7-11; Hebrews 12:1-3; 1 Peter 1:8*



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional English Melody; arr. by Ken Bible

ADORATIO 2 9.6.9.6.8.6.9.6.



Romans 5:1-5

(NASB)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we celebrate in hope of the glory of God.

And not only this, but we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

James 1:2-4

(NASB)

Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Rejoice!

The New Testament was not written in an ivory tower. Most of its authors and its first readers were people in deep suffering. Their pressures and persecutions were more severe than most of us will ever experience. Thus when the Bible tells us how to handle difficult times, it's speaking from experience. Its wisdom is thoroughly life-tested.

What do the New Testament writers consistently emphasize for those who are suffering? "Rejoice!" "Be glad!" "Consider yourselves blessed!"

Strange advice? These sufferers give us lots of reasons why rejoicing is a healthy, productive, and reasonable response to difficulties.

- 1. Suffering produces a whole garden of beautiful fruit within us, such as endurance, character, and hope (Romans 5:1-5). It strengthens and refines our faith, that essential connection between God and us (1 Peter 1:6-7). It produces maturity and gradually makes us complete in Christ, lacking in nothing (James 1:2-4).
- 2. Suffering is our best chance to glorify God (1 Peter 4:16). The closer Jesus got to the Crucifixion, the more He talked about glorifying His Father. His greatest, most enduring work was accomplished on the Cross. There God's love was displayed most purely and undeniably.

It will likely be so in our lives as well. Suffering will probably be our greatest chance to glorify God in a world that desperately needs to witness God's reality in our life.

- 3. Suffering is part of releasing what is temporary and grasping what is eternal and of greater value. While our outer person is decaying, our inner person the real "us" that will live forever is growing stronger and stronger, day by day (2 Corinthians 4:16).
- 4. When we suffer for Jesus and for the spread of the gospel, we have been granted a great privilege! We stand with the greatest saints of all the ages (Matthew 5:11-12; Hebrews 11). Far from being disgraced, we are highly honored to be counted worthy of suffering for Christ (Acts 5:40-42; 1 Peter 4:16). We have become part of His great work to save the world (1 Peter 4:13). Paul said of his own sufferings, "In my flesh I am completing what is still lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body" (Colossians 1:24, para.). As we suffer, we carry on what Jesus started.
- 5. Suffering helps us enjoy more intimate fellowship with Jesus (Philippians 3:7-11). The One with whom we walk face-to-face was "a man of sorrows" (Isaiah 53:3). Suffering was a major part of His life experience. When we suffer, we share a deeper bond with Him.
- 6. Our present suffering can't compare, either in degree or in duration, to the joy we will know when Christ takes us to Himself forever (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

Rejoice! Suffering draws us closer to Jesus. As we trust Him, He turns even suffering into great blessing!

We will suffer, but we need not fear suffering.

Hymn Recording: <u>I Rejoice in Your Purpose Today</u>

I Rejoice in Your Purpose Today



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Irregular



Hebrews 12:1-3

(NASB)

Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let's rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

For the Joy

Jesus endured unimaginable suffering physically, emotionally, and spiritually, not out of obligation, but "for the joy set before Him" (v.2).

The scripture emphasizes Jesus' complete humiliation before His enemies every step of the way.

Crucifixion itself was designed for humiliation, and the place of crucifixion was chosen for maximum public visibility.

The Jewish leaders,

the most "holy" and respectable men of their day, mocked and ridiculed Him even as He was in the grip of searing pain.

Yet Jesus endured all this "for the joy set before Him". He "despised the shame" (v.2).

That means He dismissed all that shame, that humiliation, as unworthy of consideration.

He faced His trial "for the joy set before Him".

Remember what Jesus was longing to share with His disciples only hours before His suffering?

"These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full." (John 15:11, NASB)

All who love and trust Jesus share His remarkable joy.

Our Father graciously gives each believer a precious gift:

He allows us a small share in Christ's joyful sufferings.

He calls us to give ourselves, to sacrifice ourselves for others.

As I look at the sacrifices that have come into my life –
sacrifices for my wife, my children, and my grandchildren,
for the ministry God has given me –
I find that for the most part, I make those sacrifices,
not out of obligation,
not for glory or gold,
but out of love...
out of joy.

```
I joyfully sacrifice out of
       love for my family and friends,
       love for my Father, and
       love for the beautiful truth He has revealed to me.
Love brings joy, and
      I find great joy in helping those I love.
I love God, and
I find great joy in glorifying Him -
       in helping people see how
       great and
       good and
       ever-present He is.
Father, give me the heart of Christ.
Fill my life,
       my service,
       my every daily activity
      with His joyful self-giving.
Help me to live and love and labor every day
      for the joy.
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Hymn Recording: For the Joy

For the Joy

Hebrews 12:1-3

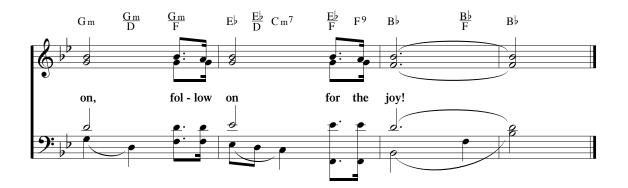


WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

COLESON 5.4.5.4.w.Ref.

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1 Peter 1:3-9

(NASB)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

You Are Calling Me to Yourself

```
My dear Father,
You are always calling me to Yourself.
Every joy,
every blessing,
every struggle,
every need
calls me
      to turn to You more constantly,
      to trust You more simply,
      to love You like a child loves her father.
Everything You do and
every word You speak, whether of
      instruction,
      challenge,
      comfort, or
      rebuke,
is a tender, personal invitation:
Come closer.
I love you.
Know Me.
Trust Me.
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Hymn Recording: You Are Calling Me to Yourself

You Are Calling Me to Yourself

Psalm 25:10; 31:15; Matthew 11:28-30; John 15:11; Romans 8:28



WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible

NEIL
L.M.

ALTERNATE TUNE: Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (GERMANY)

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John 16:20-33

(NASB)

[Jesus said:] "Truly, truly I say to you that you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will grieve, but your grief will be turned into joy! Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world. Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one is going to take your joy away from you.

"And on that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

"These things I have spoken to you in figures of speech; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech, but will tell you plainly about the Father. On that day you will ask in My name, and I am not saying to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

His disciples said, "See, now You are speaking plainly and are not using any figure of speech. Now we know that You know all things, and that You have no need for anyone to question You; this is why we believe that You came forth from God." Jesus replied to them, "Do you now believe? Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Rejoice in Jesus Christ!

"These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full." (John 15:11, NASB)

Jesus has just painted a beautiful picture of our life in Him.

We are like a branch connected to the Vine.

We are fruitful as we remain in Him.

Our prayers are answered as we remain in Him.

Why has He told us all this? What was on His heart?

Jesus longs for us to share the joy He finds in His Father, in

loving His Father,

trusting His Father, and

obeying His Father.

He wants us to know His joy, and

He wants our joy to be full!

How is joy different than happiness?

Normally we connect happiness

with temporary circumstances.

We are happy because

we are on vacation, or

our relationships are going smoothly, or

our health is good, or

we feel financially comfortable.

But we are joyful because of what doesn't change:

Who Jesus is,

Who He is to us every day,

our relationship with Him, and

our future in Him.

Jesus wants us to rejoice because of what is always ours in Him.

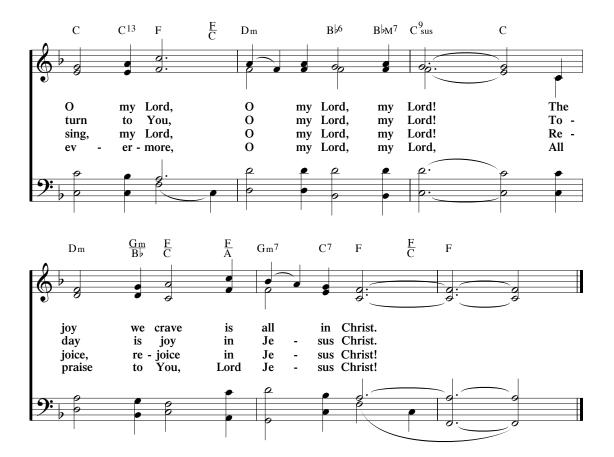
Hymn Recording: Joy in Christ

Joy in Christ

John 15:11; 17:13; Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune and Ken Bible WILLMINGTON 8.8.7.8.9.8.



Philippians 3:1 (NASB)

Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord.

Rejoice

Rejoicing is joy that is dancing. Rejoicing is faith as it sings.

Every time I turn to You, Lord,
joy rises in me.
You call me to joy.
You call me to rejoice in every situation –
not because the situation is pleasing,
but because You are God, and
You are always good.

You want me to rejoice in You! When I do, I can rejoice always and with all my heart.

Lord, I rejoice in You this morning in the face of Satan's temptations to anxiety and discouragement. I rejoice that Your work is going forward right now, in spite of all I see.

Praise to You, my God!

I rejoice that You are faithful to me every moment and that Your Spirit never leaves me, not for a second.

I rejoice that my whole family and every person I love is in Your hands.

And Lord, I rejoice in the privilege of knowing You.To know You is to trust You.To trust You is to love You.And to love You is to take pleasure in You and rejoice in You continually.

Thank You, my Father!
Thank You for all that You are!
Today, I choose joy!
I choose YOU!

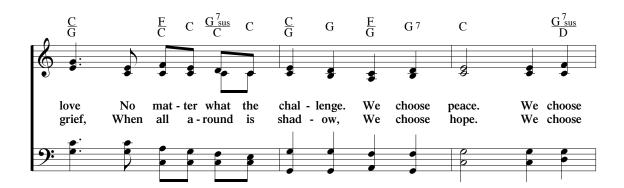
Hymn Recording: We Choose Joy

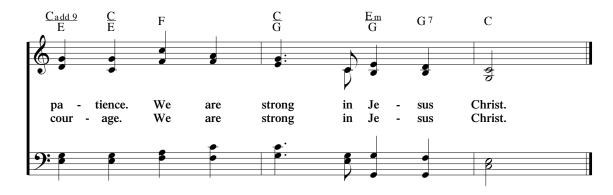
We Choose Joy

Ephesians 6:10; Philippians 4:4

With determination J = 72







WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

WE CHOOSE JOY 3.3.3.7.3.4.7.

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