

CHOOSE JOY

“I’ve placed in front of you Life and Good, Death and Evil....And I command you today: Love God, your God. Walk in his ways. Keep his commandments, regulations, and rules so that you will live, really live, live exuberantly, blessed by God....I place before you Life and Death, Blessing and Curse. Choose life so that you and your children will live”

– Deut 30:15-16, 19 (TM)

Review

- ▣ *The entire world is facing a “spirit of depression”*
- ▣ *God is requiring a spiritual response*
- ▣ *Joel 1:11 - “... joy is dried up and withered in the hearts of the people”*
- ▣ *Isa 60:1-5 – “ARISE [from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you-- rise to a new life]! Shine (be radiant with the glory of the Lord), for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and dense darkness [all] peoples, but the Lord shall arise upon you...”*
- ▣ *Joy is God’s weapon against the spirit of depression*

- ▣ *God is joy so in His presence is fullness of joy (Ps 16:11)*
- ▣ *His nature infuses our nature – who He is flows into us: Zeph 3:17 - “The Lord your God is in the midst of you, a Mighty One, a Savior [Who saves]! He will rejoice over you with joy”*
- ▣ *Christ had this joy – “anointed with the oil of joy above His brothers” (Heb 1:9)*
- ▣ *Christ means “anointed One”*
- ▣ *As Christians we too have been “anointed”*
- ▣ *Jesus promised us the Holy Spirit, and that “our joy would be like a river overflowing its banks” (Jn 16:17-23)*
- ▣ *“There is a river whose streams make glad the city of our God” (river fountains splashing joy, cooling God’s city” (Ps 46:4)*

- *Isa 56:6 – “I’ll bring them to My holy mountain and give them joy in My house of prayer”*
 - The primary function of His house is prayer
 - The primary emotion of His House is joy
- God wants His children to “fill the air with joyful sound” (1 Chronicles 15:16)
- *Isa 55:12 – “We are to go out with joy and be led forth in peace”*
- *Phil 4:4 – “celebrate God all day, every day” (rejoice always in the Lord)*
- *Neh 8:10 – “The joy of the Lord is our strength”*
- *Isa 30:5 – “Weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning”*

- ▣ *“They preached with joyful urgency that life can be radically different; right and left they sent the demons packing; they brought wellness to the sick, anointing their bodies, healing their spirits” (Mk 6:12-13)*
- ▣ *Jesus ran His race with joy (Heb 12:2)*
- ▣ *Paul’s desire was the same: “to finish his course with joy” (Acts 20:24)*
- ▣ *David said, “Why is everyone hungry for more? “More, more,” they say. “More, more.” I have God’s more-than-enough, more joy in one ordinary day than they get in all their shopping sprees. At day’s end I’m ready for sound sleep, for you, God, have put my life back together” (Ps 4:6-8)*

Introduction

- ▣ *Deut 30 – parts read*
- ▣ *The call – choose life, and choose joy as a lifestyle*
- ▣ *Many people's lives have been delayed by the blame game, that people or circumstances are the reason for our happiness or unhappiness*
- ▣ *“It's not my fault the way I am or where I am”*
- ▣ *If it is someone else's fault, we are in trouble*
- ▣ *How can we change parents, economy, etc?*
- ▣ *When you remove blame (the root of joylessness) your life takes on future*

- ▣ *None of us could control our Yesterdays, but all of us have the capacity to affect our Tomorrows, and it starts with choices Today.*
- ▣ *Heb 11 – by faith ordinary people became champions because they choose life and joy*
- ▣ *Heb 12:1-3 – we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses that cheer us on, but “the buck stops here” with us*
- ▣ *By choosing God, we choose life, and by choosing life, we must choose joy*

What is God saying

- ▣ *From our past and present into our future – “I have hope again”*
- ▣ *From depression, oppression, recession into liberty and an ability to dream again – “I am on my way out – joy is coming”*
- ▣ *From breakdown and pressure to breakthrough – “The Lord is with me, and that is enough”*
- ▣ *From containment to circumstances to break out by His Word – “The life-giving word of the Lord is coming to me”*
- ▣ *From impoverishment and lack to prosperity and grace – “His grace is sufficient for me”*

- ▣ *From weakness and infirmity to strength and capability – “my strength is returning”*
- ▣ *From trickle to a flood of blessing, from “just enough” to “more than enough” – “the dam is breaking for me and my house”*
- ▣ *From rebellion and resistance to the will of God to an experience with vision and purpose – “I am going to walk the Holy highway and arrive at a good and open place”*
- ▣ *From dry places and emotionless vision to clear streams of revelation and insight – “My passion and zeal for God and His house is returning”*

- ▣ *From seed planting to harvesting n levels we have never seen before – ““I will see the salvation of the Lord at work in every sphere of activity I am involved with – my family, my children, my boss, my co-workers, my neighbors!”*
- ▣ *From the mundane and repeatable events to amazing things, supernatural wonders – “I am entering into amazing and marvelous days”*
- ▣ *Choose joy by choosing God and choosing life and blessing*