

THE JOY OF THE LORD

3/10/10

The joy of the Lord is a fruit of the Spirit that grows and develops from the application and commitment of spiritual principles. It is not the joy that comes from short term moments of pleasure or positive gains. The joy of the Lord is a positive attitude that we take onboard once we receive the Holy Spirit and choose to live by its power. The joy of the Lord is actually a chosen state of existence for those who are confident in their salvation and are not always seeking 'blessings' to try and validate their existence.

The joy of the Lord is not just a happy feeling, nor is it about having lots of fun.

The book of the Law of Moses is produced for the first time for the surviving Israelites trying to rebuild Jerusalem... the people now have the written record of God's will.

NEM 8:8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused *them* to understand the reading.

&10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for *this day is holy* unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for **the joy of the LORD is your strength**. They all rejoiced because of their appreciation of the power and certainty that was offered to them through the assured word of God.

The great joy that comes from true scriptural integrity.

3JOH 1:3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. *The word of God is much more than a book of good ideals... it is the source of the true joy of living.*

4 I have **no greater joy** than to hear that my children walk in truth. *It also multiplies joy in those who truly love its values.*

5 Beloved, thou doest **faithfully** (*put your heart into it*) whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;

The great joy that also comes from walking in the Spirit.

JOH 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, **that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.**

12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

Walking in the Spirit always leads to true peace and contentment... this is the real joy of the Lord. We walk not by sight, but by faith... that is something we all have and is able to be regenerated easily. It doesn't take all that much effort to walk effectively. This is the great invitation that is offered to all those who wish to find eternal life through Jesus Christ.