

Something Different

Some thoughts on joy ...

'Joy is the serious business of heaven.' - C.S. Lewis

Nehemiah 8 v 10

... the joy of the LORD is your strength.



Ecclesiastes 5 v 19 and 20.

As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labour— this *is* the gift of God.

For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because God keeps *him* busy with the joy of his heart.

NKJV

The Joy of Our Hearts. From Scarlett

I have been reading Ecclesiastes. Thought provoking certainly, but inclining towards a negative, depressive tone so far. (I've read to chapter 5). However I began to ponder on a phrase in Chapter 5, 'the joy of their hearts'

In the previous verse Solomon is saying to those who work hard and accept their lot in life God gives wealth and possessions. I think he meant a roof and food. They scarcely have time to think about how hard they work because they are so occupied with ' the joy of their hearts'.

Fast forward to life as a Christian in the 21st century. Do we? Can we? Work with the ' joy of our hearts'.

Since I left the Civil Service I have worked with marginalised people in society. Those who have suffered broken lives leading to mental illness. I ran a singing group for one such club and to see the joy on the faces of each member, having been lifted from their depression after each session, certainly gave me ' the joy of my heart '.

I have supported a lady who was bed bound and severely depressed but I was able to lift her to a happier state of mind again rewarding me with ' the joy of my heart '.

Working for a lunchclub for the elderly who are isolated to a certain extent, and struggling to cook a meal is a heart-warming thing to do. They not only enjoy the meal but the ' joy' of the companionship the club offers. I also volunteer for St Stephen's Open Church, supporting people having problems or just needing company in their lonely lives.

Working with the ' joy of our hearts' is surely the essence of being a Christian.

Read it for yourselves - Ecclesiastes 5 v 19 and 20.

There is no greater personal reward for a Christian than ' the joy of the heart '.

Psalm 28:7

The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.

My heart leaps for joy,
and with my song I praise him.

Psalm 65:8

The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.

Psalm 94:19

When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy.

Isaiah 51 v 11

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.

John 15 v 11

“These things I have spoken to you,
that My joy may remain in you,
and *that* your joy may be full.”

Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

James 1 v 2 – 4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of
many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces
perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be
mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Two contrasting songs of Joy!

Henry Van Dyk was a professor of English literature at Princeton between 1899–1923 and also chaired the committee that wrote the first printed Presbyterian liturgy, *The Book of Common Worship of 1906*.

When he was filling in as a guest preacher at Williams College, Williamstown, MA, in 1907, he found himself overwhelmed by the beauty of the Berkshire mountain. He wrote the words that would become the hymn “Joyful, Joyful.” When he walked into the college, he handed the words to the president and said, “Here’s a hymn for you. It should be sung to Beethoven’s ‘Hymn to Joy.’”

Today it’s one of the most popular hymns of all time.



Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
Opening to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light of day

Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel
Your love has come
Here to dwell

All Thy works with joy surround Thee
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays
Stars and angels sing around Thee
Center of unbroken praise
Field and forest, vale and mountain
Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee

Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel
Your love has come
Here to dwell
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel
Your love has come
Here to dwell

Mortals join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began
Father love is reigning o’er us
Brother love binds man to man
Ever singing march we onward
Victors in the midst of strife
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life

Though tears may fall
My song will rise, my song will rise to You
Though my heart may fail
My song will rise, my song will rise to You
While there's breath in my lungs
I will praise You, Lord

In the dead of night
I'll lift my eyes, I'll lift my eyes to You
When the waters rise
I'll lift my eyes, I'll lift my eyes to You
While there's hope in my heart
I will praise You, Lord

The joy of the Lord is my strength
The joy of the Lord is my strength
In the darkness I'll dance
In the shadows I'll sing
The joy of the Lord is my strength

When I cannot see You with my eyes
Let faith arise to You
When I cannot feel Your hand in mine
Let faith arise to You
God of mercy and love
I will praise You, Lord

Oh You shine with glory Lord of light
I feel alive with You
In Your presence now I come alive
I am alive with You
There is strength when I say
I will praise You, Lord

When sorrow comes my way
You are the shield around me
Always You remain
Like courage in the fight
I hear You call my name
Jesus, I am coming
Walking on the waves
Reaching for Your light

Source: [LyricFind](#)
Songwriters: Edmond Martin Cash / Gareth Andrew Gilkeson / Christopher Dean Llewellyn



image ... <https://iceland-photo-tours.com/articles/landscape-and-nature-photography/settings-and-tips-for-spectacular-sunrise-photography>