



ADVENT

PREPARE for CHRIST



Joy

CHRISTMAS
2023



THE GIFT OF JOY

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME OF GREAT JOY



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Luke 2:10-11 KJV

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11 ISV

¹⁰ Then the angel told them, “Stop being afraid! Listen! I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today your Savior, the Lord Messiah,^{[a](#)} was born in the City of David.

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JOY = calm delight

Chairo → Charis = Grace → Charisma = Gift

GOD WITH US

B R I N G S
JOY



GOD
with us

WE'LL BEGIN BY UNDERSTANDING THE GIFT OF JOY FROM GOD.

- WE'LL SEE HOW JOY IS NOT JUST AN EMOTION

BUT A DIVINE GIFT

JESUS IS OUR SOURCE

- A MANIFESTATION OF THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

GOD PLANTS IN OUR HEARTS

- IT MOVES FROM OUR HEARTS TO

- OUR FEET TO WALK IT OUT (*EXAMPLE*)

- OUR HANDS+MOUTH TO SHARE IT OUT (*WITNESS*)

GOD
with us

THE GIFTS OF Christmas

✦ JOY ✦



**THIS JOY IS NOT JUST A FEELING OR JUST A MOMENT OF HAPPINESS OR
FLEETING SENSE OF PLEASURE**

**IT'S A DEEP-SEATED, UNSHAKEABLE CERTAINTY NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS,
WE ARE HELD SECURE IN THE LOVING ARMS OF OUR SAVIOR**

- MORE THAN AN EMOTION, BUT A DIVINE GIFT FREELY GIVEN TO US
BY OUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

A GIFT THAT'S MEANT TO BE CHERISHED, NURTURED, AND SHARED



**A cheerful heart is good medicine,
But a crushed spirit dries up the bones.
Proverbs 17:22 (NIV)**



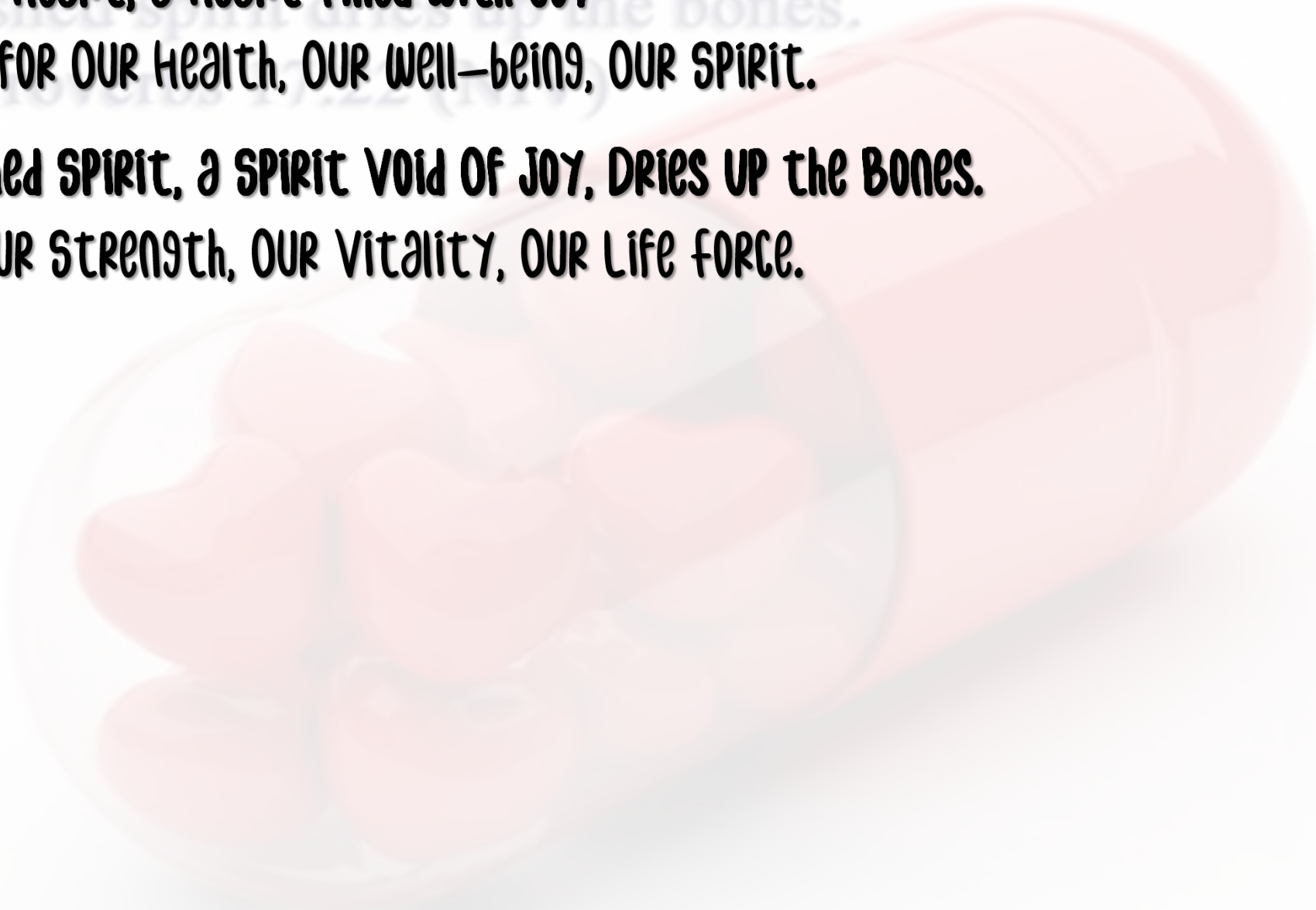
• PROVERBS 17:22, *"A CHEERFUL HEART IS GOOD MEDICINE, BUT A CRUSHED SPIRIT DRIES UP THE BONES."*

• A CHEERFUL HEART, A HEART FILLED WITH JOY

• IT'S GOOD FOR OUR HEALTH, OUR WELL-BEING, OUR SPIRIT.

• BUT A CRUSHED SPIRIT, A SPIRIT VOID OF JOY, DRIES UP THE BONES.

• IT SAPS OUR STRENGTH, OUR VITALITY, OUR LIFE FORCE.



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WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT THE GIFT OF JOY?

• JOY IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR WELL-BEING.

• IT'S NOT A LUXURY, NOT AN OPTIONAL EXTRA, BUT A NECESSITY

• WITHOUT JOY, OUR SPIRIT IS CRUSHED, OUR LIFE FORCE IS DRAINED,
OUR BONES ARE DRIED UP

• WITH JOY, OUR SPIRIT IS UPLIFTED, OUR LIFE FORCE IS RENEWED,
OUR BONES ARE STRENGTHENED

THOUGH THE FIG TREE SHOULD
NOT BLOSSOM

NOR FRUIT BE ON THE VINES,

THE PRODUCE OF THE
OLIVE FAIL

AND THE FIELDS YIELD
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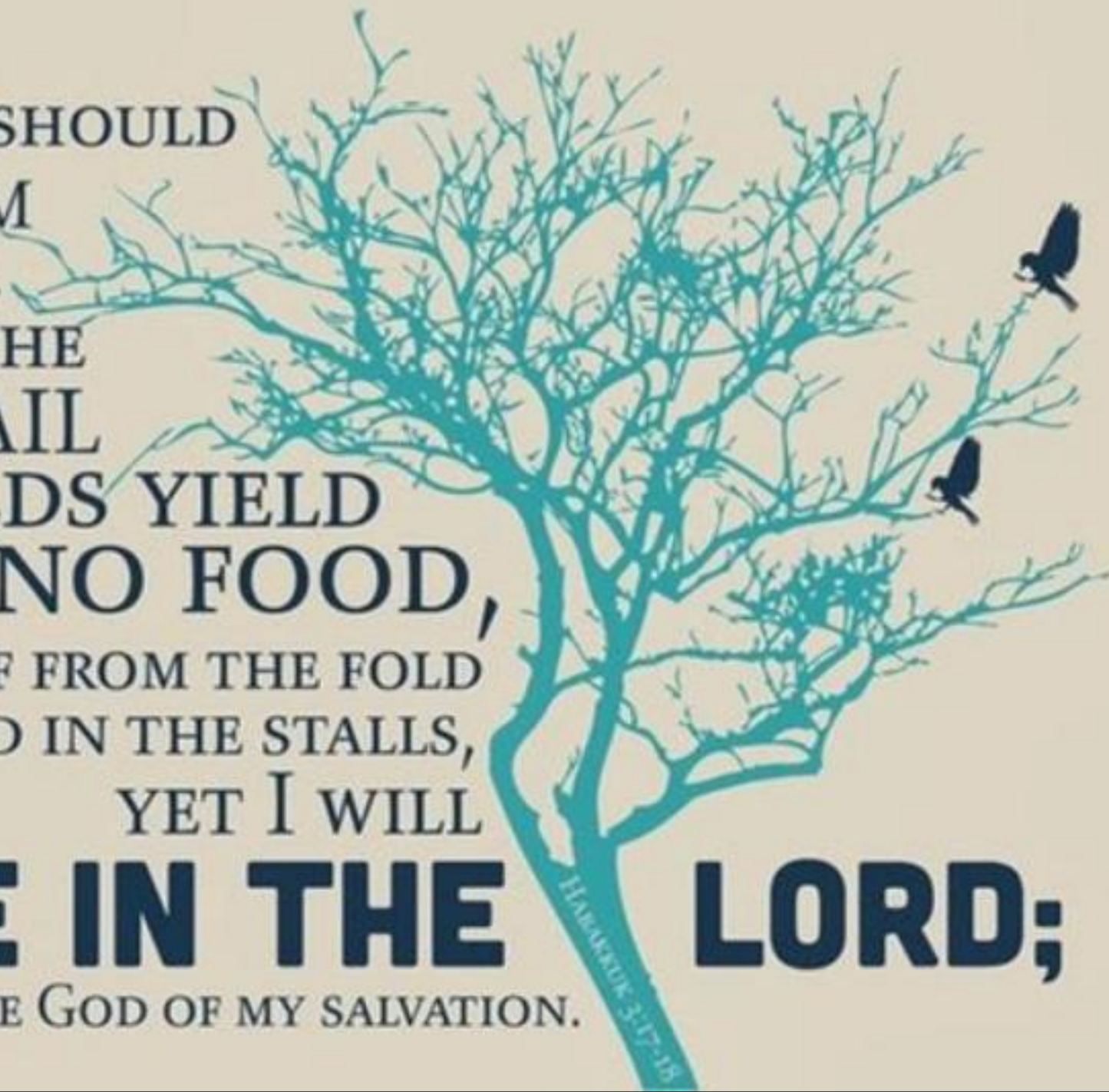
THE FLOCK BE CUT OFF FROM THE FOLD
AND THERE BE NO HERD IN THE STALLS,

YET I WILL

REJOICE IN THE

LORD;

I WILL TAKE JOY IN THE GOD OF MY SALVATION.



HABAKUK 3:17-18

Habakkuk 3:18, *"yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior." This verse is a declaration of faith, a proclamation of joy. It's saying that no matter what happens, no matter how dire the circumstances, I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be joyful in God my Savior.*

REJOICE IN THE LORD;
I WILL TAKE JOY IN THE GOD OF MY SALVATION.

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What Does This Tell Us About The Gift Of Joy?

It Tells Us That Joy Is Not Dependent On Circumstances

- It's Not Contingent On What's Happening Around Us
- It's Not Determined By The Ups And Downs Of Life
- It's Dependent On Our Relationship With God
- It's Determined By Our Trust In His Promises

REJOICE IN THE LORD;
I WILL TAKE JOY IN THE GOD OF MY SALVATION.

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you
and that your joy may be complete.

John 15:11



"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11

THIS IS A PROMISE FROM JESUS

- HE'S SAYING THAT HIS JOY IS IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER
- NOT JUST A LITTLE BIT OF JOY, BUT FULL JOY...

COMPLETE JOY, OVERFLOWING JOY



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WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT THE GIFT OF JOY?

- JOY IS NOT SOMETHING WE HAVE TO STRIVE FOR,
 - OR TO EARN, OR WORK FOR
 - IT'S A GIFT
- HE DOESN'T JUST GIVE US A LITTLE BIT OF JOY, BUT FULL JOY.
 - COMPLETE JOY
 - OVERFLOWING JOY



Phi 4:4, *"Rejoice in the LORD always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"*

THIS IS A COMMAND, NOT A SUGGESTION

- It's a call to action, not a passive observation
- PAUL IS TELLING US TO REJOICE, TO CELEBRATE, TO BE JOYFUL (X2)

Rejoice

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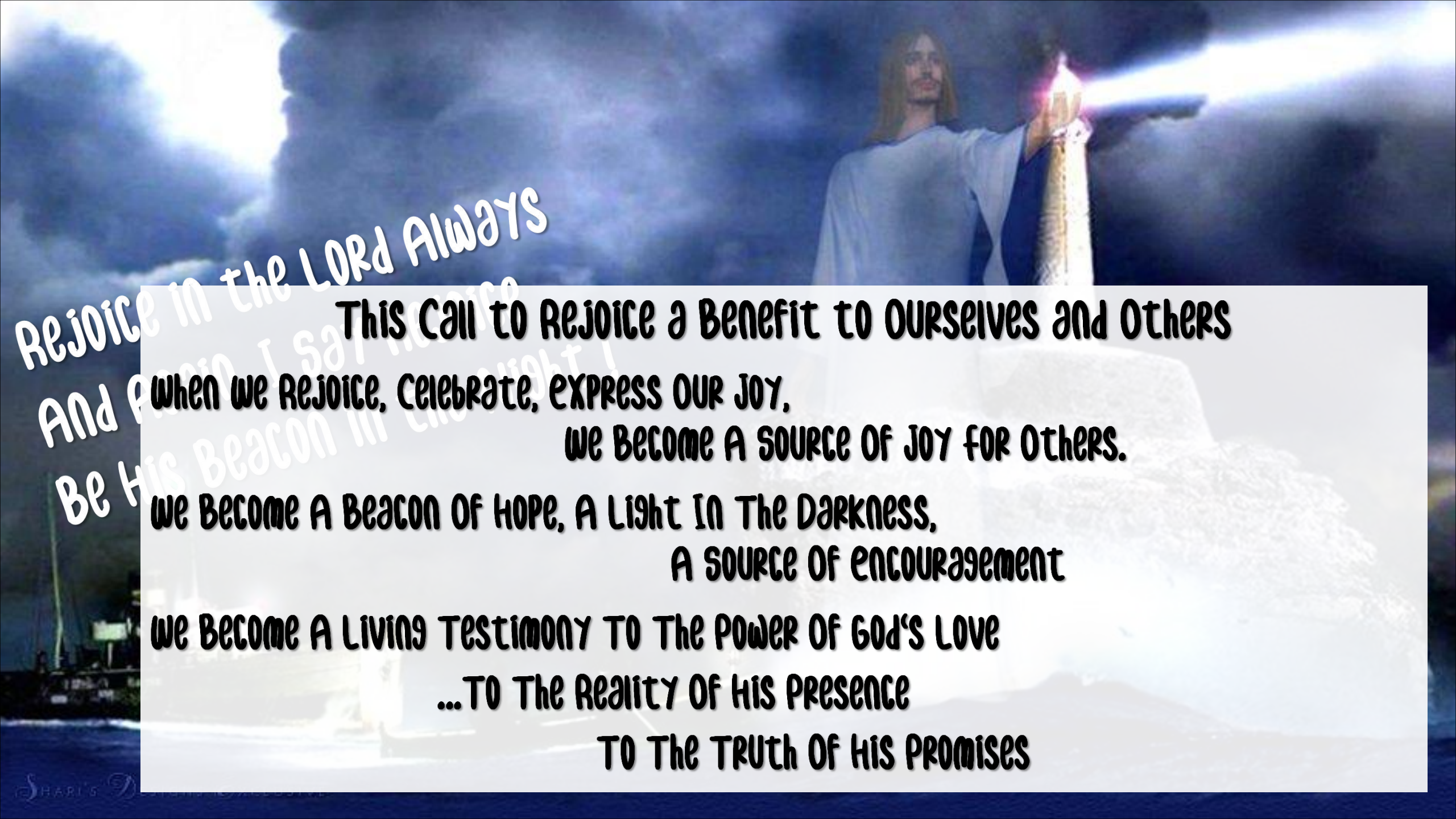
- It's a call to action, not a passive observation
- PAUL IS TELLING US TO REJOICE, TO CELEBRATE, TO BE JOYFUL (X2)

THE COMMAND TO REJOICE IS NOT CONDITIONAL

- NOT, "Rejoice if YOU feel like it, OR things are going well"
- HE SIMPLY SAYS, "Rejoice in the LORD always"
- THIS IS A CALL TO CONSTANT, UNCEASING, UNWAVERING JOY
- IT'S A CALL TO CELEBRATE, REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES, FEELINGS
- ITS A PROFOUND CHALLENGE, BUT ALSO A PROFOUND OPPORTUNITY

Rejoice in the LORD Always
And Again, I say Rejoice
Be His Beacon in the Night !





Rejoice in the LORD Always
And Praise Him
Be His Beacon in the Night

THIS CALL TO REJOICE A BENEFIT TO OURSELVES AND OTHERS

WHEN WE REJOICE, CELEBRATE, EXPRESS OUR JOY,

WE BECOME A SOURCE OF JOY FOR OTHERS.

WE BECOME A BEACON OF HOPE, A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS,

A SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

WE BECOME A LIVING TESTIMONY TO THE POWER OF GOD'S LOVE

...TO THE REALITY OF HIS PRESENCE

TO THE TRUTH OF HIS PROMISES

as sorrowful

Y

always rejoicing

as poor

E

making many rich

having nothing

T

possessing everything

Apostle Paul knew what it meant to rejoice in the Lord.

**Despite facing numerous trials and tribulations,
imprisonment, beatings, shipwrecks,/ various forms of persecution,
...Paul remained Joyful.**

2 Cor 6:10, he describes himself as *"sorrowful, yet always rejoicing."*

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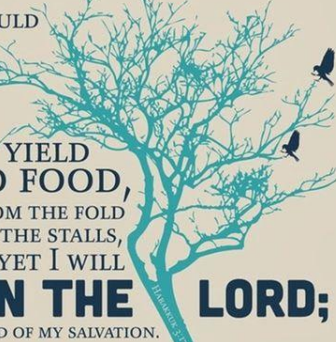
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**This is a testament to Paul's unwavering faith, his unshakeable trust
in God, his unyielding commitment to the gospel.**

**It's a Testament to His Understanding of the True Nature Of Joy,
Not As A Fleeting Emotion,
But As A Deep-seated...
...Unshakeable Certainty In The
...Goodness And Faithfulness Of God.**

THOUGH THE FIG TREE SHOULD
NOT BLOSSOM
NOR FRUIT BE ON THE VINES,
THE PRODUCE OF THE
OLIVE FAIL
AND THE FIELDS YIELD
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YET I WILL
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Rejoice
IN THE
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ALWAYS.
I WILL SAY IT
AGAIN:
Rejoice

*Ridge
Light
Ranch*

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

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This Weeks Challenge

Let's Take the "Paul Attitude Challenge"

2 Cor 6:10, "*sorrowful, yet always rejoicing*"

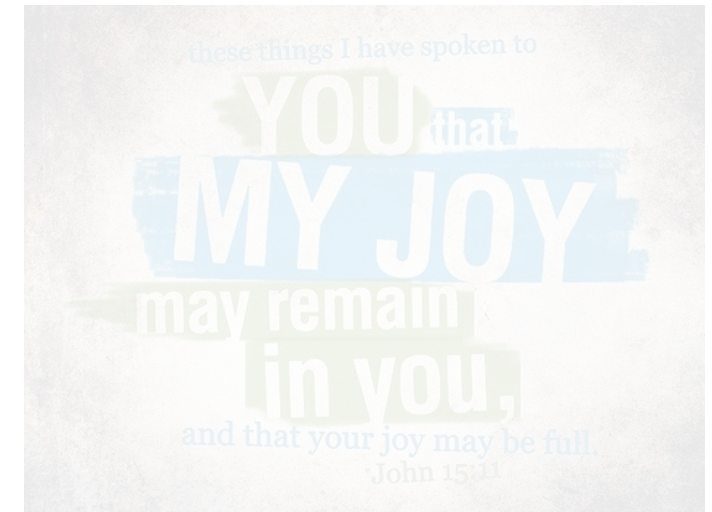
No Matter What Challenges or Obstacles

We Face This Week...

Learn to Face It ...



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This Weeks Challenge

Let's Take the "Paul Attitude Challenge"

2 Cor 6:10, "*sorrowful, yet always rejoicing*"

No Matter What Challenges or Obstacles

We Face This Week...

Learn to Face It ...

- Head On

With Your...

- Praise On

Watch How Your Life Will Bloom with Opportunity!

With God- For God- Through God



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