

The Wellspring of Joy

By Donna Pyle

As an opening prayer, speak the words of **Psalm 51:15**:
O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

In Texas, we are blessed to have literally hundreds of artesian wells. Artesian wells are made by boring into the earth until the instrument taps into a pressurized, underground aquifer. As soon as the instrument hits one of these aquifers, the internal pressure causes the water to spontaneously gush heavenward to the surface.

As Christians, when the joy of the Lord bores into us and takes up residence, we cannot keep that wellspring of joy and love capped! It flows up through us to encourage and lift up the body of Christ.

Jesus is our wellspring of life. His saving work on the cross assures that all who believe in Him will live and reign with Him in eternity. JOY! What does **Isaiah 12:2–3** tell us? Note the phrase “with joy.”

Joy is rooted in an abiding faith in God. According to **Romans 10:17**, our faith comes from where? When we listen, read, and meditate on His Word, that message develops in us a joyful faith.

Jesus came to give us life, abundant life, not just merely the capacity to exist. God’s Word instructs us to rejoice always. Always? Is that possible? There is an important distinction to note here: We are to rejoice and give thanks *in* everything, not *for* everything. (See **1 Thessalonians 5:16–18**). There is a reason for our sufferings, even if we cannot understand it.

Philippians is known as the “Book of Joy” partly because of Paul’s ability to find joy and contentment in any circumstance. And he exhorts us to do the same. Paul penned a beautiful psalm of praise to Jesus in **Philippians 2:5–11**. What comes to your mind as you read through those passages? Paul was imprisoned in Rome when he wrote this letter to the Philippians. Still he found joy. During that time, Nero was emperor — a persecutor of Christians, who often burned Christians alive and used them as human torches during his parties. And still Paul stayed strong in the faith, with joy.

Scripture clearly tells us that God desires for us to be joyful. According to **John 15:10–11**, what is one key to joy?

At times we treat joy as an item on our Christian checklist. Got salvation? Check! Got forgiveness? Check! Got joy? Check! But until that checklist travels the eighteen inches from our brain to our heart, those whom God puts in our path each and every day may not see His joy revealed in our lives.



An old adage states, “Actions speak louder than words.” So true! I remember being surprised by a coworker’s statement one day that she was a Christian. Why? She was the loudest complainer and whiner in the office who chose to see the negative in nearly every situation. When I was around her, it never occurred to me, “Now, there’s a person who has the joy of the Lord in her heart.”

What brings you joy? Think about it. Meditate on it. Focus on it. Write it down. Post it on your bathroom mirror as a reminder. And rejoice in it!

What does **Nehemiah 8:10** remind us of? There is always something to be joyful about. Ask God to give you a joyful heart! Joy — unmitigated, untrammled joy — is the distinctive mark of the believer in Christ Jesus.

Scripture tells us that our joy should not depend on our circumstances. Nor are we left to our own devices to find it. Joy is the result of the relationship we have with Jesus as our Savior. Note what Paul says in **Philippians 4:4**.

Everything else will change — His promises will not. What promises of God are revealed in these verses: **Psalm 5:11**; **John 17:13**; and **1 Peter 4:13**?

In the Old Testament, God reveals Himself as the source of our joy. See **Psalm 21:1**; **31:7**; **Isaiah 25:9**; **Habakkuk 3:18**; and **Jeremiah 15:15–16**. When that joy takes root, what is our response according to **Psalm 9:1–2**?

Joy is a divine, as well as a human, emotion. We see where God Himself rejoices over His people in **Deuteronomy 30:9** and **Zephaniah 3:17**. What does God also rejoice over according to **Luke 15:5–7, 9–10**?

Joy, even *great* joy, is prominent in the New Testament. **Luke 2:10** describes the arrival of God’s Son with “good tidings of *great* joy.” **Luke 10:21** and **John 15:11** refer to whose joy?

Satan will do what he can to make our lives joyless, difficult, and problematic. We often find ourselves in trying situations. What did David pray when He was feeling the weight of his own sin? (See **Psalm 51:10–12**.) When we triumph in faith through the power of the Holy Spirit over difficult circumstances, the result is JOY! (See **Acts 5:41**, **Romans 5:3**.) When God’s Word penetrates deep into the soil of our hearts, joy bursts forth like an artesian well regardless of our circumstances. (You may want to put on a life jacket, because that gush of joy promises to be the ultimate white water rafting adventure!)

Close in prayer, asking God to reveal the joy the Good News of His Son Jesus Christ — the wellspring of life, our Living Water — through you to others. May your life overflow...with joy!

Donna Pyle is Vice President—Christian Life for Texas District LWML and a member of Salem Lutheran Church, Tomball, where she serves as an adult Bible class teacher and a worship leader. Donna, founder of Artesian Ministries [www.artesianministries.org], lives in Spring, Texas, with her husband, David, a public high school teacher.