

## **The Joy of the Lord!**

*“And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, ‘This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep.’ **For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.***

*Then he said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for **the joy of the Lord is your strength**’” (Nehemiah 8:9-10).*

### **“The Joy of the Lord is Your Strength”**

In all the 54 translations of the above verse 10:

- 38 Translations: **“The Joy of the Lord is Your Strength!”**
- 7 Translations: **“The Joy of the Lord Makes You Strong!”**
- 2 Translations: **“The Joy of Yahweh is Your Protection/Refuge!”**
- 3 Translations: **“The Joy of the Lord is Your Strength and Stronghold!”**

My Expanded Version of Nehemiah 8:10 (b):

**“The Joy of the Lord is Your Strength; it Makes You Strong; it Offers Protection and Refuge in the Stronghold of God!”**

We are often perplexed about the “Stronghold of the Enemy” but we must focus on the “Stronghold of God.” A Mighty Fortress is our God housing His people in His holy presence of righteousness, peace, contentment, health, and abundance. **The Joy of the Lord is the Stronghold of God that not only gives us momentary joy but continuously and constantly houses us within the fortress of joy forever and ever!**

## **Distinctions Between Happiness & Joy!**

Happiness is through Happenings. Good things make you happy and bad things make you sad.

Joy is a Force from Heaven, and it comes from the Lord as the phrase says, ***“The Joy of the Lord!”***

**God’s Own Words about Joy at the Creation:** *“When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy” (Job 38:7)?*

**Joy at the Foundation of the Temple:** *“But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers’ houses, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy” (Ezra 3:12).*

**Joy at the Birth of Christ:** *“Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord’” (Luke 2:10-11).*

**Joy in the resurrection of Christ:** *“So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word” (Matthew 28:8).*

**Joy with the Ascension of Christ:** *“Now it came to pass, while (Jesus) blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy” (Luke 24:52).*

**Joy as a Fruit of the Holy Spirit:** *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23).*

## **Joy Comes With repentance!**

### **Lost Sheep (Loss of 1 %)!**

*“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine [b]just persons who need no repentance” (Luke 15:4-8).*

- Joy for the Sheep Rescued!
- Joy for the Shepherd Who Rescued!
- Joy in Heaven for the restoration of the Sheep!

### **Lost Inheritance (10 % Loss)**

*“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’ Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:8-10).*

- The Significance of 10 Coins – Inheritance in Marriage!
- The Loss of One – 10 % (You have lost a significant blessing of your married life)
- Conviction – Do Not Settle for the Loss
- Repentance Restores You to Redeem What You Have Lost!
- Joy for You and Joy in Heaven Among the Angels!

## **A Powerful Marriage!**

### **The Ten Silver Coins of Inheritance!**

#### **Suitable Helper!**

*“And the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him’” (Genesis 2:18).*

#### **God’s Favor!**

*“He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord” (Proverbs 18:22).*

#### **God’s Inheritance!**

*“Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent (subtle, shrewd, sly, crafty, sensible) wife is (an inheritance) from the Lord” (Proverbs 19:14).*

#### **God’s Companion!**

*“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).*

#### **God’s Union of Mercy & Truth in One Home!**

*“Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed” (Psalm 85:10).*

#### **Model of Love and Sacrifice of Christ!**

*“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” (Ephesians 5:25).*

#### **Increase of Strength in Battle!**

*“How could one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had surrendered them” (Deuteronomy 32:30)?*

### **God's Presence in the Power of Agreement!**

*"Again (Assuredly) I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:19-20).*

### **Two for Witnessing!**

*"And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits" (Mark 6:7).*

### **Spiritual Oneness!**

*"I and My Father are one" (John 10:30).*

### **The Lost Son (100 % Loss)!**

*"A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living" (Luke 15:11-13).*

### **If You Have Made Your Children Joint-Heirs, and If One Falls Away, the Loss is 100 %**

*"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together" (Romans 8:16-17).*

### **Grace Begins at The Point of Repentance!**

*"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants'" (Luke 15:17-19).*

### **Examine What You Have Lost!**

- Your Loss Maybe 1 %
- It could be 10 %
- You have lost it all, 100 %

Examine Yourself!

Repentance is the Key for Grace to Take You Home!

There is Joy Over Your Repentance!

The Grace of God Redeems You from Your Losses!

The Grace of God Redeems You!

### **Joy is Lacking With a Worldwide Shaking!**

*“The vine has dried up,  
and the fig tree has withered;  
the pomegranate tree,  
the palm tree also,  
and the apple tree—  
all the trees of the field are withered;  
surely joy has withered away from the sons of men” (Joel 1:12).*

**Trees – Men:** *“I see men like trees, walking” (Mark 8:24).*

**Trees – Nations:** *“Then He spoke to them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree, and all the trees’” (Luke 21:29).*

### **A Worldwide Shaking!**

*“See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.’ Now this, ‘Yet once more,’ indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.*

*Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we [I]may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:25-29).*

*“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matthew 24:6-8).*

*“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken” (Luke 21:25-26).*

### **Restoration of Joy Comes With Conviction & Repentance!**

*“Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room. Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar; let them say, “Spare Your people, O Lord, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” (Joel 2:15-17).*

- A Collective Brokenness
- Conviction of the Loss of Status of God’s People
- Repentance of the Whole Family, Church, Community, and Nation
- Relentless Prayer with Supplication

### **Restoration of God!**

*“Then the Lord will be **zealous** for His land, and pity His people.*

The Lord will **answer** and say to His people, ‘Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations...

So I will **restore** to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

**You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied**, and praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be put to shame” (Joel 2:18-19, 25-26).

### **Response During This Shaking!**

- **Get Right with God – You Do Not Have Tomorrow!**
- **Do Everything God Has Asked You to do TODAY!**
- **Conviction – Realize What You Have Lost in This Pandemic!**
- **Avoid Hatred:** “And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another” (Matthew 24:10).
- **Don’s Lose Your Love:** “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12).
- **Don’t Lose Your Faith:** “And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:7-8)
- **Endurance:** “But he who endures to the end shall be saved” (Matthew 24:13).
- **Repent Yourself!**
- **Repent as a Whole Family!**
- **Repent as a Church!**
- **Repent as a Community!**
- “When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people who are



*called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place” (II Chronicles 7:13-15).*

### **Reasons for No Joy!**

- 1) **Sin in Your Life:** *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit” (Psalm 51:10-12).*
- 2) **Mourning in Zion:** *“To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified” (Isaiah 61:3).*
- 3) **A Miserable Spirit:** *“So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city. And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah’s head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, ‘It is better for me to die than to live’” (Jonah 4:5-8).*
- 4) **Wicked Authority:** *“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan” (Proverbs 29:2).*
- 5) **A Systemic Failure:** *“For the people do not turn to Him who strikes them, nor do they seek the LORD of hosts. Therefore the LORD will cut off head and tail from Israel, palm branch and bulrush in one day. The elder and honorable, he is the head; the prophet who teaches lies, he is the tail. For the leaders of this people cause them to err, and those who are led by them are destroyed. Therefore, the Lord will have no joy in their young men,*

*Nor have mercy on their fatherless and widows; for everyone is a hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaks folly” (Isaiah 9:13-17).*

### **A Believer’s Joy!**

**Joy in Divine Revelation:** *“In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, ‘I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight’” (Luke 10:21).*

**Joy Exclusively Abides in Believers:** *“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11).*

**Joy Bestowed Through the Word:** *“But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves” (John 17:13).*

**The joy of the Harvest:** *“Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth (goes to and fro) weeping, bearing seed (a bag of seeds) for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing (shouts of joy), bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalm 126:5-6).*

**Joy in Tribulation:** *“Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls— Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer’s feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills” (Habakkuk 3:17-19).*

**God’s Word Brings Joy:** *“Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, o LORD God of hosts” (Jeremiah 15:16).*

**God's Presence is the Immense Place of Joy:** *"The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing" (Zephaniah 3:17). "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).*

**Jesus is Our Example – Joy Sustained Him at the Cross:** *"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author (originator) and finisher (perfector) of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:1-2).*

### **Important Scriptural References on Joy!**

**Joy with the Ark of the Covenant:** *"So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom with joy" (I Chronicles 15:25).*

**Joy in Giving to the Lord:** *"Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly" (I Chronicles 29:9).*

**Joy with Victory Over Enemies:** *"Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the Lord had made them rejoice over their enemies" (II Chronicles 20:27). "And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; therefore, I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord" (Psalm 27:6).*

**Restoration of Passover:** *"And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy; for the Lord made them joyful and turned the heart of the king of Assyria*

toward them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel” (Ezra 6:22).

**Joy, Not Mourning:** “Then he said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10).

**King’s Joy in Salvation:** “The king shall have joy in Your strength, O Lord; and in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice” (Psalm 21:1)!

**Joy for the Upright in Heart:** “Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart” (Psalm 32:11)!

**God has Pleasure with the prosperity of His servant:** “Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; and let them say continually, ‘Let the Lord be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant” (Psalm 35:27).

**Joy for the Meek:** “The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 29:19).

**Joy with the Desert Blossoming:** “The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing” (Isaiah 35:1-2).

**Joy for the Ransomed of the Lord:** “And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:10).

**Joy for the Waste Places:** “For the Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in it, thanksgiving and the voice of

*melody” (Isaiah 51:3). “Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem! For the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem” (Isaiah 52:9).*

**Oil of Joy for Mourning:** *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified” (Isaiah 61:1-3).*

**Joy for those Who tremble at God’s Word:** *“Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble at His word: ‘Your brethren who hated you, who cast you out for My name’s sake, said, ‘Let the Lord be glorified, that we may see your joy.’ But they shall be ashamed” (Isaiah 66:5).*

**God’s Word Brings Joy:** *“Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts” (Jeremiah 15:16).*

**The Voice of Joy:** *“Then it shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise, and an honor before all nations of the earth, who shall hear all the good that I do to them; they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and all the prosperity that I provide for it.’ Thus says the Lord: ‘Again there shall be heard in this place—of which you say, ‘It is desolate, without man and without beast’—in the cities of Judah, in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast, the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voice of those who will say: ‘Praise the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for His mercy endures forever’—and of those who will bring the*

*sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord. For I will cause the captives of the land to return as at the first,' says the Lord" (Jeremiah 33:9-11).*

**Joy in Famine:** *"Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills" (Habakkuk 3:17-19).*

**Joy for the House of Judah:** *"Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'The fast of the fourth month, the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be joy and gladness and cheerful feasts for the house of Judah. Therefore, love truth and peace'" (Zechariah 8:19).*

**Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant:** *"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord'" (Matthew 25:21).*

**Joy in Service of the Lord:** *"Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name'" (Luke 10:17).*

**Paul Finishing with Joy:** *"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).*

**Joy in Reconciliation:** *"And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation" (Romans 5:11).*

**Our Partners are Joy and Crown:** *“Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved” (Philippians 4:1).*

**The joy of the Holy Spirit:** *“And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit” (I Thessalonians 1:6).*

**The hope of Joy:** *“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?” (I Thessalonians 2:19)*

**Joy in the Lord in Helping a Friend:** *“Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord” (Philemon 1:20).*

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