



# SERMON NOTES

Week 4 December 19, 2021

## “Altogether Joy”

Nehemiah 8:10-12, Luke 2:10, John 15:10-11,  
Philippians 1:4-5



### I. Introduction

- A. Christmas really highlights for us the \_\_\_\_\_ between an “almost joy” and a true “altogether joy.”
- B. The song, “We Need A Little Christmas” was about searching or joy during the \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. How Joy Comes

- A. The Bible talks about finding joy and happiness from many \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- B. Nehemiah said, “The joy of the Lord is our \_\_\_\_\_.”
- C. Because of God’s love and promises, God’s people often \_\_\_\_\_ joy, despite their circumstances.

### III. How Joy Lasts

- A. True joy can coexist with our \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. Jesus longs to make our joy \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. At Christmas we are called to \_\_\_\_\_, returning again and again to our source of grace, hope and love for our joy.

### *Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *December 20-25, 2021*

## INTRODUCTION

At Christmas, we instinctively know the difference between an “almost joy” and an “altogether joy.” An “almost joy” is the happiness we find in decorations, sharing cookies, and unwrapping presents we were longing for. But we all know that true joy is something that can blossom alongside frivolity and happiness, or it can flourish alongside sadness and even deep sorrow. Joy is what came at Christmas—the steadfast assurance that God is with us.

---

### Monday: Psalm 105:42-43, Exodus 15:1-3

Circumstances so often let us down, but hanging on to God’s promises can sustain joy. When God rescued Israel from slavery, though they were still in the wilderness, God’s people shouted and sang for joy. Are you able to shout or sing for joy today? What promises of God help you to be joyful today? Pray that God’s promises to you would sustain you.

---

### Tuesday: Isaiah 51:11, Isaiah 49:13

The prophet Isaiah speaks to a heartbroken nation of Israel, now in exile from their homeland. But the prophet knew that sorrow and sadness would not have the final word. He encouraged God’s people to look forward to the day when a deliverer would lead them out of oppression and into joy. What do you learn about God’s character in these passages? Pray that you could see your situation today through God’s eyes.

---

### Wednesday: Matthew 5:11-12, Hebrews 12:1-3

Jesus taught his followers that even when they faced persecution and rejection, they should “rejoice,” and “be very glad” as they waited for their reward in heaven. Have you ever faced painful or threatening circumstances, and yet were able to sustain joy? Pray that your hope in Jesus would sustain you today.

---

### Thursday: 2 Corinthians 6:10

In 2 Corinthians 6, Paul describes the overwhelming power of Jesus’ life and love to sustain him, a love that has overcome death itself. In this tension, sorrow and joy become bedfellows. We should never ignore or suppress sorrow, which is not healthy or helpful. However, Paul often describes his grief alongside his joy. Many people struggle with grief this time of year. If you are grieving, pray that you are able to hold onto joy alongside your sorrow. Or pray this prayer for someone you care about, who is grieving.

---

### Friday: Luke 2:9-11

On Christmas Eve, we remember that the early Christians understood the prophesy of Isaiah was fulfilled with the arrival of Jesus. The angels described this fulfillment when they sang of “good news that brings great joy!” Why do you think the shepherds were gripped with fear? What reasons did the angels give to them to rejoice instead? How does this good news echo in your heart today?

---

### MOVING FORWARD: Luke 2:15-20

It’s Christmas Day! After you read the passage today, close your eyes. Imagine the scene, the sounds, the smells... what do you see as you look around? What emotions are in the faces of Jesus, Joseph and Mary? What do you want to say to Mary about her newborn? Pray that you would experience the full joy of this day and share that joy with others. The pastors and staff at Asbury pray you have a blessed and joyful Christmas!

---

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) gap, B) Great Depression. IIA) gifts, B) strength, C) chose. IIIA) sorrow or griefs, B) complete, C) rejoice.*