

## Greater Joy

The Joy of the Lord over every emotion! Life can be overwhelming, with difficult relationships, trials, and tribulations.

But the Bible promises us that 'the joy of the Lord is our strength' (Nehemiah 8:10). If Satan can steal our joy, he's stolen everything. Yet Jesus invites us to experience joy despite life's challenges.

Greater joy is not simply the absence of hardship, but a deep, abiding sense of peace and contentment that comes from trusting in God's promises. It is the kind of joy that transcends circumstances and anchors the soul, regardless of what life may bring.

The Bible teaches that greater joy is found not in perfect circumstances, but in a relationship with God. Scripture reveals that joy is rooted in God's presence—Psalm 16:11 says, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy." Nehemiah 8:10 reminds us, "The joy of the Lord is your strength," emphasizing that joy is a source of spiritual resilience even during hardships.

To find greater joy in Jesus, we must intentionally seek His presence and cultivate a relationship with Him through prayer, worship, and studying His Word. When we focus on Jesus and the truth of His love for us, our hearts become more tuned to the joy that comes from knowing Him. Joy is not dependent on circumstances, but on the assurance that Jesus is with us, guiding and sustaining us every day.

Choosing the joy of the Lord is an intentional act of faith, especially when circumstances seem bleak. It means deciding to trust God's faithfulness and goodness, even when emotions fluctuate or situations are hard. By making this choice daily, we invite His joy to fill our hearts, strengthening and uplifting us far beyond what the world can offer.

May we hold onto this promise and find strength in the joy of the Lord, even on the toughest days. Isaiah 12:3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Jeremiah 8:10 The joy of the Lord is my strength. Proverbs 17:22 A joyful heart is as good as medicine, but a crushed spirit dries the bones.