

# JOY

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Nehemiah 8:10 - Young's Literal Translation (YLT)

10 And he saith to them, `Go, eat fat things, and drink sweet things, and sent portions to him for whom nothing is prepared, for to-day [is] holy to our Lord, and be not grieved, for the joy of Yehovah is your strength.'

Nehemiah 8:10 - The Voice (VOICE)

10 Go back to your homes, and prepare a feast. Bring out the best food and drink you have, and welcome all to your table, especially those who have nothing. This day is special. It is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve over your past mistakes. Let the Eternal's own joy be your protection!

Nechemyah 8:10 - Orthodox Jewish Bible (OJB)

10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the choice foods, and drink the sweet things, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is kadosh (holy) unto Adoneinu (our Lord); neither be ye grieving; for the chedvah (joy) of Hashem [(the Name) YHVH] is your strength.

Nehemiah 8:10 Amplified Bible (AMP)

10 Then [Ezra] told them, Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet drink, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And be not grieved and depressed, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and stronghold.

YHVH is used 6800 times in Scripture. It is the Personal Name of the Creator of the universe. It is used when He wants to express His mercy and love towards mankind.

Notice the word chedvah--joy. This word is only found 2 times in Scriptures. Here and in 1 Chronicles 16:27. The usual word for [joy] is [simhah], occurring dozens of times. In this verse [chedvah] is directly connected to YHVH. It is not OUR joy that strengthens--it is HIS joy! While [simhah] is associated with human emotions and actions, [chedvah] is the exclusive possession of God Himself. If [chedvah] is our strength, then we better understand what it means! You see, God Himself experiences JOY! And it is this very same JOY that is the basis of our strength.

Let's look at Jesus' example in Luke 10:21

At that very hour, Jesus rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit ...

The word "rejoiced" in the above passage is truly an amazing word in the Greek. The Greek word for rejoiced is "agalliao". The literal definition of the word is to "jump for joy, to exalt, to be exceedingly glad with exceeding joy, to rejoice greatly". The word agalliao comes from another primary root word which means "to jump, to leap, to spring up".

Can you picture this? The Lord got so excited in the Holy Ghost that He leapt up and began to jump for joy and to be not just glad, but exceedingly glad with GREAT joy!

The Hebrew word here for rejoice corresponds to the Greek [agalliao]. The Hebrew definition for rejoice is "to spin around (under the influence of any violent emotion), to rejoice, be glad, be joyful". Something awesome stirred Jesus very deeply in that passage in Luke 10. Something which so profoundly affected His emotions that He could not contain Himself. He had to leap up and spin around and leap and jump and rejoice and spin and spring up and leap and be joyful and exceedingly glad with great rejoicing. Jesus has now broken out of your religious box-- He dances in the Spirit! Oh yes, the verse in Luke 10 said very clearly that Jesus rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit!

One of the pitfalls in the Westernized church is that we tend to forget that the Bible is not an American or European book. It was born out of and is colored by the culture of the Middle East. Jesus was a Jew and His responses to the Holy Spirit and His Father flowed out of that rich heritage. To the Hebrew mind, leaping up under the influence of a stirred emotion and responding exuberantly was not considered in poor taste. It was recognized and valued for what it was — passion.

The Hebrew language is an amazing language. It paints a picture through the meanings of the individual letters--called a pictograph. Since there are only two Scriptures that talk about this JOY that belongs exclusively to YHVH, we will look at the pictograph for further clarification. [Chadvah] is a noun derived from the verb [hadah]. The consonants are [chet-delet-hey]

Are you ready for the picture? BEHOLD, A DOOR IN THE FENCE! Now

we see what the JOY of YHVH is! It is the gladness of providing a door in the fence--a path for coming into His presence! What cheers our LORD? A way in! God rejoices that there is a door for us to come into fellowship with Him! WE ARE NOT SHUT OUT!!! FOR HE HAS PROVIDED A WAY BACK!!! His JOY is that He can fellowship with us once again. Did you notice that none of this JOY requires any effort on our part? The [chedvah] JOY of the LORD exists because HE made a way! The deepest sense of JOY is not about what we do. It is about the gift God gives--an OPEN DOOR!

THE PRIVILEGE TO ENTER IN TO HARMONY WITH GOD IS OUR STRENGTH.

No other creature in all creation, whether on Earth, in Heaven or in the whole of the universe has this privilege. There is no other door except the One He provides. OUR STRENGTH IS HIS PROVISION!

But let us go back to Luke 10 again. What was the context of that outburst of praise? What was it that stirred Jesus so deeply? The disciples had returned from a ministry journey upon which Jesus had sent them. They were really pumped up. They were big time excited because of the power of God that had been demonstrated through them, as they spoke the word of the Lord in obedience to Jesus' commission to them. They were astounded--Even the demons obeyed them! And Jesus was excited too. The results that they reported to Him were exactly what He had purposed for them. And, He clarified the whole thing for them, as well. When He said that they should not rejoice about demons submitting to them, but that their names were recorded in heaven, He didn't mean not to be excited about and appreciative of God's power, but that He wanted them to know and realize where the power came from. That it came from the fact that they were known in heaven and that the power they were seeing flowed out of salvation.

How greatly we undervalue our salvation. It is the very source of the river of God's life from which flows everything else we long for. The Bible says Jesus came that we might have life and that more abundantly. He was driven to see His Father's plan of redemption poured out on mankind and implemented.

That day, as the disciples returned from their mission full of joy, He saw a glimpse of His Father's plan. He saw the beginnings of what it was going

to be like when His redemptive work was complete and salvation would begin to be poured out on the whole world. He saw the beginnings of a time when His children would be released to flow into all of the highways and byways and spread the reality of salvation and eternal life — the kingdom of God to all of mankind. The joy was so intense and so stirred from the depth of his soul that He rose up to dance and rejoice and leap and jump and spin!

Oh, that we too, could have even a small portion of this kind of devotion to the Father's plan. Oh, that we could be so moved to a passionate exuberant response to the unction of the Spirit of God. Oh, that we really could be even a little like Jesus. Perhaps then, also like Him, we could have the kind of profound impact on our world that could even change the course of human life as He did. People would be truly drawn to the Father as He drew them, through us. Let us appreciate our salvation.

Forget those things that are behind you--they are in the past. Press on towards the mark of your high calling. Behold the door in the fence!!!