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THE JOY OF THE LORD

Many people think joy is getting things and being happy. Maybe a car, a new home, a new cell phone, a new wardrobe, etc. These things are only temporary. When the car breaks down, or the house needs fixing or the cell phone gets lost, we often “lose our cool” and have no joy.

True joy comes from God. It is knowing that in spite of our circumstances that we can still be joyful because we have salvation and the promises of God.

In the book of Nehemiah chapter 8 there is great celebration because the scribe Ezra opened the book of the law and read it from a pulpit. There had not been any reading during the captivity, and now the walls were restored in Jerusalem. The people stood as he read, lifted up their hands, bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD.

The Levites caused the people to understand the law that was read. They wept and mourned when they heard the words, but Nehemiah spoke to them in verse 10, “***...Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.***”

Their joy came from hearing and understanding the reading of God’s word. It brought them great comfort.

We also, should be joyful in our spirits as we read the promises of God and meditate upon them. It brings inner peace, and joy that no one can steal from us. Let the joy of the Lord be your strength today. It will be there when everything else falls apart.