



**PEEPLS VALLEY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Together we are becoming!  
One Spirit



## The Greatest Joy in The World

Series: [Christmas is a Time for Songs]

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 / 17<sup>th</sup> Kislev 5783

### Matthew 2:9-12 (KJV)

**The wise men from the East are directed to Jesus' birthplace by a star**

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. 10 When they saw the star, they **rejoiced with exceeding great joy**. 11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. 12 (Matt 2:9-12) As we continue this series in which we're taking an inside look at some of our favorite Christmas hymns, today we'll talk about a song that is *almost* as popular as the hymn we discussed last week. You may remember that *Time Magazine* declared **Silent Night** the most popular Christmas song of all time. Today's hymn, **Joy to the World**, came in second. The divine joy that becomes the birthright of every believer in Christ. Biblical joy is the settled conviction that God who is sovereign controls the events of life for our good and for His glory. For unlike happiness, God's joy is not based on external circumstances. We consider that happiness is an attitude of satisfaction or delight based upon external circumstances beyond one's control. In this light, happiness cannot be planned or programmed. It is experienced only if and when circumstances are favorable. It is therefore elusive and uncertain. And I think all of us could testify that we live in a world well acquainted with despair, depression, disappointment, dissatisfaction, and a longing for lasting happiness that often never comes to pass.

Four Lesson's for Getting Ready for Christmas

#### 1. Let Us Begin by \_\_\_\_\_ Him Room.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come.  
Let earth receive her king.

#### 2. Let's Make Sure We \_\_\_\_\_ the Sounding Joy.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.

#### 3. Let's \_\_\_\_\_ This over That.

The third verse which, like the front pew in the sanctuary, doesn't often get used, but this one should sing every time. It says...

No more let sin and sorrow grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found.

#### 4. Let's \_\_\_\_\_ to be Living Proof.

Isaac Watts said...

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love.

He rules *the* world, to be sure ... but the question is: **Will he rule *your* world?**  
He wants to fill our lives with truth and grace, which is ours in Jesus Christ.

#### **CONCLUSION** Application

**God's divine purpose for my life is to set me free from sin and deliver me to the joy of salvation in Him.**

#### How Do You Feel Joy in the Lord?

1. Discover the Lord's Purpose for You. You are more than ordinary. ...
2. Find Joy in Your Circumstances. One of the keys to finding joy is to recognize God's hand in your life, even during challenging moments. ...
3. Remember That Joy Multiplies. ...
4. Look for God in the Ordinary and Simple.

**So how do we experience the joy of the Lord every single day?**

**Here are two simple ways.**

#### **Step #1: Spend Time with God**

God is the source of all joy.

He is the most joyful, glad, happy being in the universe and all true, deep, lasting joy comes from Him. If we want to experience joy daily, we must regularly spend time with God, the fountain of joy.

In **Psalm 43:4**, David says, **"Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God."**

God was David's exceeding joy.

David experienced the deepest joy in the presence of God. When he was in God's presence, his heart overflowed with gladness and thankfulness and songs of praise.

In **Psalm 4:7**, David writes, **"You have put gladness in my heart, More than in the season that their grain and wine increased."**

Do you want to experience joy? Then fellowship with God every day.

#### **Step #2: Cultivate Thankfulness**

We are incredibly, overwhelmingly, abundantly blessed.

**Ephesians 1:3** **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ."**

1. Preparing. 2. Repeat. 3. Choose. 4. Seek