

Trust in God: The Power of Joy

Overview: In these days it is time to take another look at joy. To many, joy seems more like happiness based on good circumstances. To some, it is an emotion they are trying to work up. To others, it is an elusive emotion that they used to have but has now faded into fear or hopelessness or complacency. If the joy of the Lord is to be our strength to be overcomers it seems like we should know what joy is and how to walk in it. Joy is the outflow of our deep trust in God, His love, His goodness, and His power. Joy is our strength, our rock, and our fortress in the midst of every adversity.

A. Where is Your Strength?

1. Is our strength small in the face of adversity? Pro 24:10
Pro 24:10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.
2. The Lord is our strength in times of trouble. Ps 37:39
Psa 37:39 But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: he is their strength in the time of trouble.
3. A deep root in our heart prevents tribulations from tripping us. Mat 13:20-21,23
Mat 13:20-21,23 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. 23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
4. By building our lives on the rock of the Word, destruction is averted. Mat 7:24-27
Mat 7:24-27 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.
5. You are the God of my strength. Ps 43:2-5
Psa 43:2-5 For thou art the God of my strength... 3 O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles. 4 Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God. 5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.
6. Fix our heart on God, trusting in Him. Ps 112:6-8
Psa 112:6-8 Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. 7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. 8 His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.

B. The Joy of the Lord is Our Strength.

1. The joy of the Lord is our strength. Neh 8:10
Neh 8:10 Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and 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.
2. Joy comes from understanding the Word of God. Neh 8:7-9,12
Neh 8:7-9,12 Also Jeshua, and Bani, and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. 8 So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. 9 And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. 12 And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.
3. A wise man is strong, a man of understanding increases strength. Pro 24:5
Pro 24:5 A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.
4. A disciple continues in the Word and is set free. Joh 8:31-32
Joh 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.
5. Knowledge – understanding what God has done for us and how to walk in it.
6. Understanding God, his Word, and promises brings deliverance. Ps 18:1-50
Psa 18:1-7 I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. 2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. 3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. 4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. 5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. 6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears. 7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. (Read the rest of the Psalm)

C. Growing in Joy.

1. Joy comes from trusting God, our strength. Isa 12:1-6
Isa 12:1-3 And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Isa 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Isa 12:3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

2. We rejoice greatly in our God. Isa 61:10
Isa 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels
3. The Lord is my strength; therefore, my heart greatly rejoices. Ps 28:7-8
Psa 28:7-8 The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him. 8 The LORD *is* their strength, and he *is* the saving strength of his anointed.
4. Find your joy in the riches of the kingdom. Mat 13:44
Mat 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.
5. Keeping the commandments results in joy. Joh 15:9-11
Joh 15:9-11 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full
6. Fulfilling our God-given destiny brings joy. Act 20:24
Act 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

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