

THE GIFT OF JOY

Luke 2:10

Two characters have become icons in our culture of the struggle we have to find joy in the Christmas season.

- ♦ "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" – Dr. Seuss
- ♦ "A Christmas Carol" – Charles Dickens

If joy is only tied to the Christmas spirit of "giving" it is at best a "seasonal" experience.

Where do we find JOY – for all seasons?

Well said by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin:

"JOY IS THE SUREST SIGN OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD"

If this is true... Angels should know best what joy is

- ♦ Shouts of joy at creation - Job 38:7
- ♦ 1000's upon 1000's at worship - Hebrews 12:22
- ♦ Rejoicing at a sinner's repentance - Luke 15:7
- ♦ Great joy at 1st Advent of Jesus Christ - Luke 2:10
- ♦ Joyful praise at 2nd Advent - Revelation 5:11,12

If this is true and "God is with us"... we can receive His JOY as a gift

- ♦ Jesus promised it – John 15:9-11
- ♦ Holy Spirit produces it – Galatians 5:22

If this is true... we can experience it in any season of our lives

- ♦ In difficult times - Psalm 16:11, Nehemiah 8:10, 17
- ♦ Family relationships - 2 John 4; 3 John 3,4

A PRAYER FOR JOY!

Dear Heavenly Father,

You are the giver of the best gifts. I thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to be my Saviour and Lord. I come to you with my burdens and give them to you. I receive in return your gift of joy. Fill me afresh with your Holy Spirit so that "the joy of the Lord will be my strength". Thank you. In Jesus name – Amen.