

September 19, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Joel 2:23 *Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God, for He has given you the autumn rains because He is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. (NIV)*

REJOICE! One hundred and fifty-eight times in scripture we find the word rejoice. If God says something once, it is important. If He says it this many times; it is critical! We are to be people of joy. **Phil. 4:4** *Rejoice in the LORD always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (NIV)* **Neh. 8:10** *Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our LORD. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."* (NIV) **Ps. 16:11** *"You make known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand. (NIV)*

Are you starting to get the picture? We are to be filled with joy! I've known many joyful Christians who exude the joy of the LORD. You can see Him in them. I believe that one reason many other people have not yet received Jesus as their LORD and Savior is because we have not shown them the joy of the LORD. People are seeking that, but in all the wrong places. They look to money or power. They look to all types of stimulation, but in the end, these things lead to destruction. We must be people of joy so that others can see the joy of the LORD in us. When they do, they will want it! It is captivating. It is pure. It is right.

And, in today's scripture, we are compelled to praise the LORD for His faithfulness. **2 Thess. 3:3** *But the LORD is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. (NIV)* Our joy radiates from our faithful Father. He is there for us every day, all day long. He will always be there because that is Who He is. That is what He does. He is faithful.

Dear LORD, You are so very faithful. There will never be a time when You are not there for us. This is the basis for our joy. And that joy gives us strength. Strength to face the struggles and trials of this world. Fill us with Your joy LORD. In Jesus Name, Amen