

"Great Joy"? - You Can Have It!

Reference: **Luke 2:8-12**

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Starting from the angels promise of "*good news of great joy*," why do we Christians often not see "great joy" in our lives?

WHERE IS IT? The angel promised that this was good news of great joy.

Reference: **Luke 2:10**

Many of us don't have that great joy that is spoken of. It's a sign that we've gotten off track.

A few of the places in the New Testament where it speaks of joy and gives us insight into some of the sources of joy:

JOY SHOULD BE A REGULAR PART
OF OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS.

SOME OF THE SOURCES OF JOY:

1. Jesus is alive.
Reference: **Matthew 28:8**
2. The ability to see God's power at work through you.
References: **Luke 10:17, 21**
3. Enjoying closeness to Christ.
Reference: **John 15:11**
4. Seeing God answer your prayers.
Reference: **John 16:24**
5. Seeing people grow.
References: **1 Thessalonians 2:20; 3 John 1:3-4**

Questions:

1. Are you mature enough that you have something to pour into others' lives spiritually?

2. Can you name a few people who you are investing your life in spiritually right now to see them grow in their walk with the Lord?

- praying for them
- mentoring them in how to read the Bible
- witnessing to them
- meeting with them regularly to help them see next steps they need to take spiritually in their lives

Too many of us live lives that are **self-centered**.

Jesus set a pattern by spending three years pouring His life into twelve men with the belief that He would give them what they needed to go forward and make disciples themselves.

We have largely abandoned this, to our great harm. Instead, we "run the church" and focus on programs and ministries rather than people.