

# Divinely Blessed & Restored

## Authentic Joy©

**Submitted by: Rev. Doris B. Ryans**

*When was the last time you felt real joy? More than contentment, more intense than feeling happy, it's a feeling that is way down in your soul.  
To know real "joy" is to know Jesus!*

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Philippians 4:4 NIV

*Joy* is defined as an emotion of lively pleasure, happiness, arising from present or expected good. A source or cause of gladness or delight. If we're honest with ourselves, many of us have been conditioned to believe joy can be obtained through material things and/or accomplishments. But these things only provide momentary happiness....then life returns to its humdrum existence.

Is that because "joy" is an elusive dream? Something only select individuals get to enjoy. No, it is not reserved only for a select few, but it **is** reserved for those who have a relationship with God. Joy enters your life when we choose to have a genuine relationship with God and His son, Jesus. Because, when God's Spirit lives in us, real "joy" is what the Spirit produces in our hearts as we have intimate communion with our Father.

Christ made it clear that he become His follower's joy. His *If you remain in me and my whatever you wish, and it will be*

*Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. 9"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11I have told you this so that **my joy** may be in you and that **your joy** may be complete. NIV.*



intended that His joy would word tells us in John 15:7 - 11: 7 *words remain in you, ask given you. 8This is to my*

But amid the hustle and bustle of the Holiday season and in the tradition of gift giving we can neglect our relationship with our Father. We can lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. At a time when we are commemorating an occasion that should elicit great emotion; pleasure, happiness and delight as we celebrate the birth of our Messiah

—  
"Jesus" - we can lose our "joy".

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How does this happen? To have joy we must be in fellowship with the Father. This means we are spending time in prayer, reading His Word, and worshipping Him. It requires a relationship with God, one that is being nurtured, not placed aside in our busyness. An intimate relationship with God is not an option in a Christian's life, it's a necessity. As Nehemiah said...."The joy of the Lord is my strength."

If you have an intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father, you **will** have true joy in your life. An intimate relationship with God means you have given him the proper place in your life.

As we celebrate Christmas I ask you to do more than think about gift giving and "all I want for Christmas"...take time to look at Christmas spiritually. We can start by looking at the name of Jesus. In Biblical times, a name had special significance because names were used to express the character of the person. There is no name more significant than the name of the person whose birth we are celebrating at Christmas. In Matthew 1:21 an angelic messenger told Joseph: **"She will bring forth a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."** Isaiah 9:6 told us **"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."** and the Word tells us:

- ❖ It is the name by which we must be saved (*Acts 4:12*)
- ❖ It is the name that is to set the tone for Christian behavior (*Col. 3:17*)
- ❖ It is the name which, one day in the future, every knee shall bow (*Phil 2:10-11*)

As you fellowship with others this season, do so carrying the message of the Savior's birth. This time of the year provide an excellent opportunity to show love to others and acquaint them with Jesus. What better way to show love than to carry the message of God's love for us *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that who so ever believeth on him, should not perish but have everlasting life* John 3:16 to those that have not accepted Jesus as their Savior. As you share this good news I guarantee you will experience JOY, unspeakable JOY, in your life.

## **BLESSINGS TO YOU AND YOURS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**

Rev. Doris B. Ryans  
and  
Divinely Blessed & Restored Board of Directors



## HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST?

Our purpose in this article and daily scriptures is to encourage a heart-to-heart relationship with God. If you do not know God in a personal way, we invite you to make the first step today to receive God's love and the salvation that only Jesus Christ can give. Here are five steps you can take to receive salvation:

1. Recognize you are a sinner and need salvation. The Bible tells us "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
2. Repent of your sins. Sin separates us from God. By confessing your sins and turning from them you are forgiven. The Bible says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).
3. Believe in Jesus. God sent His Son to die so that He could pay for all our sins. The Bible says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life: (John 3:16).
4. Receive His Salvation. Jesus Christ is a gift you must receive and welcome to live in your heart. He promises: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God: (John 1:12).
5. Confess your belief verbally. The Bible assures "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved: (Rom. 10:9).

You now have been born again! Tell some else your good news and connect yourself with a church home as soon as possible. God Bless and Keep You!

### **Divinely Blessed & Restored**

P.O. Box 31-1405  
Detroit, MI 48231  
Ph: 313-566-0944  
Fx: 313-566-0945

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