

June 19, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
In every season of life we can know joy in Christ

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Lord, You have chosen me and redeemed me, crowned me with love and compassion. I can do nothing less than overflow with joy at Your great love for me, for those I love, and for the world.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full
(John 15:11 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", May 5, 2015)

Series: Toward A New Salvation

UNIT: A World Gone Wrong

NEXT WEEK

Ignoring God's Plain Truth
(Rom 1:18-32)

Joy for the Faithful Zeph 3:9-14, 20

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines the extent and fullness of the **Joy of the Faithful** God gives His people. The **study's aim** is to know that receiving God's grace and restoration will result in the blessing and great joy daily. The **study's application** is to live daily with the mental awareness that God in His grace forgives and restores us.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Much of the text of Zephaniah's prophecy is gloomy. But here we have an outburst of joy and thanks. Something has changed. Salvation has come. Redemption has drawn near. Hope is alive. This is the dimension of heartfelt glorying that a relationship with God brings. Zephaniah's message in the days of King Josiah largely concerned the fact that God's judgment was coming. It was coming for Judah and would result in exile. It is coming for all nations at the end of time in the great Day of the Lord. Zephaniah's prophecy was a word to all who need to repent and seek the Lord. However, beginning at Zephaniah 3:8, change occurs in the message of Zephaniah. We begin to see a glorious promise that God will redeem His people. The mood of the prophecy changes from a consideration of judgment to an outcry of joy. In fact, several different terms for joy are used. When a sinner comes back to God, there is no way that only one word can describe it all! For those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, joy is the abiding result. What kind of joy? First of all, it is joy that causes us to "sing." This is a term for singing aloud in joy, a spontaneous response to the mercy and grace of God. Also we "shout," which is a term that literally means to make a noise. It is used of the spontaneous shout that went up when the ark of God was brought to the army of Israel (1 Sam. 4:5). It is a happy and spontaneous expression of confidence in the Lord. We also become "glad," which speaks of a heartfelt, inner happiness. A new peace with satisfaction invades the soul of the one who is right with God, Finally, the believer rejoices "with all the heart." This description is foundational, describing a deep emotional joy that leads to all the singing and shouting and praising that follow. It means exulting in God's salvation. What a wonderful thing God does for us when we pass from death to life and escape the terrors of His judgment (cf. John 5:24)! No wonder the Lord said, "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20). What greater thing can the Lord do for us than save our souls? We will all have our share of trials and tribulations in this world. Perhaps we feel things are not working out for us as we had hoped. Take heart! If you are a believer, your name is written in heaven. The Lord has not and will not forget you. All His great judgments will pass you by. All his holy, eternal promises are yours. You are His child. When this truth gets into our hearts, it brings joy. This is the joy of the faithful. Can we count our blessings today, dear believers? Can we thank the Lord that He lives in our hearts? Can we allow the joy of salvation to rise up within us and overtake us? Truly, "the joy of the Lord is [our] strength" (Neh. 8:10).

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

JOY IN PRAYER AND SERVICE (ZEPH 3:9-10)

Prayer using a pure language (9)

Prayer in unity (Rom 15:5-7)

Prayer done by the Holy Spirit because we don't know how to pray (Rom 8:26-28)

Prayer in the Holy Spirit (Eph 6:18)

Prayer in the faith (Jude 1:20)

Service in one accord (9)

Service in one accord by firmly establishment in the faith (Col 1:23)

Service in one accord by consistently doing work God has assigned (Heb 6:10)

Service in one accord by doing God's will (Heb 10:36)

Service in one accord by doing good works (Eph 2:10)

Worshipful offerings (10)

A worshipful offering that offers ourselves as a living sacrifices (Rom 12:1)

A worshipful offering done willingly (2 Cor 8:12)

A worshipful offering that is acceptable to God (Gen 4:2-7)

A worshipful offering given out of love (Eph 5:1-2)

A worshipful offering done sacrificially (Phil 4:16-18)

JOY IN RESTORATION (ZEPH 3:11-14)

Restoration from guilt (11)

Restoration from guilt through Jesus' sacrifice (Heb 10:19-22)

Restoration from guilt through confession and repentance (2 Chron 7:14)

Restoration from guilt through Jesus being our guilt offering (Isa 53:10)

Restoration from guilt through acknowledging sin (Ps 32:4-5)

Restoration from unrighteousness (12-13)

A restoration from wandering from the truth (James 5:19-20)

A restoration from sin (1 John 5:16)

A restoration from doubting (Jude 22-23)

A restoration from grief caused by sin (2 Cor 2:5-8)

A restoration from idleness and weakness (1 Thess 5:14)

Restoration into a rejoicing people (14)

Rejoicing in worship and service (Ps 2:11)

Rejoicing in God's salvation (Ps 13:5)

Rejoicing in the revival by God (Ps 85:6)

Rejoicing in God's righteousness (Ps 89:15-16)

Rejoicing in the Lord always (Phil 4:4)

JOY IN FREEDOM (ZEPH 3:20)

Freedom through God's gathering (20)

God's gathering of the elect (Matt 24:31)

God's gathering that will bring all the scattered children of God together (John 11:51-52)

God's gathering so that we may praise and worship God (Ps 106:47)

God's gathering of the people who are called by His Name (Isa 43:6-9)

Freedom of the captive (20)

Freedom of the captive through Jesus (Luke 4:16-19)

Freedom of the captive through the grace of God (Eph 4:7-8)

Freedom of the captive through the truth of God (John 8:31-36)

Freedom of the captive from sin (Rom 6:22)

Freedom of the captive from the Law (Gal 5:1)