

Joy is a time of partying. It is a time of celebration. We celebrate certain days that represent important events to us. We celebrate birthdays as we remember who we are and that we were specifically created by God to live in the earth. We celebrate graduations, and promotions. We celebrate at weddings, and baby showers and other special events. These should be happy events with joy flowing from our hearts.

In Old Testament times the Israelites celebrated when they returned from battle victorious. They celebrated when their enemy was defeated. There was great joy!

When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals.

1 Samuel 18: 6 (NLT)

How much more should there be joy in our hearts that our enemy is defeated. The enemy no longer has power over us, unless we give it to him. He steals from us by deceiving us. He is a defeated foe. We just do not understand this. We have the mind of Christ, so deception should no longer hold us in bondage, but it often does.

The word “devil” in the Bible can refer to Satan, or it can refer to anyone or anything that accuses us falsely. The enemy has convinced God’s people that they are sinners and always will be sinners. We are only saved by God’s goodness and His grace; therefore, we will never amount to anything. We just have to get through life doing the best we can, and hopefully get to heaven where everything will be all right.

This is a diabolical lie. Yes, we have sinned. Sin means we have missed the mark of God’s standard of rightness. But we are forgiven. We are created in His image and were born with His Divine nature in us. We just may not realize it or understand it yet. When we come to the place where we understand our Father’s love for us and our true identity, there will be great JOY with great celebration!

In John, chapter 16, Jesus had a conversation with His disciples concerning His impending death. He wanted them to be prepared for it and to understand the meaning of it. He knew they were sad and they did not yet understand the reason for all that needed to happen.

He was going away where they would no longer be able to see Him and walk with Him like they had before. However, He told them He will be with them and talk and walk with them in a new and different way. That way would be through the Spirit of the Living God who would be sent to the earth for them.

He continued His conversation with the disciples to assure them that their sorrow would only last for a short time. When they realized afterwards that He had returned to them through Holy Spirit, then JOY would return to their hearts.

Jesus used the example of a woman giving birth. She would have great pain in the birthing process, but it would only last a short time. Afterwards the pain would be forgotten by the pure joy of looking in the face of a new little one.

Jesus knew what they were thinking, and it was obvious that they were anxious to ask him what he had meant, so he spoke up and said, “Let me make it quite clear: You will weep and be overcome with grief over what happens to me. The unbelieving world will be happy, while you will be filled with sorrow. But know this, your sadness will turn into joy when you see me again! Just like a woman giving birth experiences intense labor pains in delivering her baby, yet after the child is born she quickly forgets what she went through because of the overwhelming joy of knowing that a new baby has been born into the world. “So will you also pass through a time of intense sorrow when I am taken from you, but you will see me again! And then your hearts will burst with joy, with no one being able to take it from you! John 16:19-22 (TPT)

There hearts would be so full of joy when they fully understood who Jesus really was, what He had done for them, nothing would be able to steal that joy from them. When we come to the place where we fully understand who Jesus is, who we are in the Father heart of God, our hearts will be so full of joy as well. When we come to the full realization that we have our being in Him, and are loved of the Father as a true son or daughter, the joy will be so great that no one can steal it from us.

In this same conversation, Jesus told His disciples that He had overcome the world. Understanding that fact, should bring them courage and cheer.

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33 (ESV)

Jesus defeated the enemy and overcame the power of the world's systems that were diabolically opposed to God's standard for abundant life.

Many times, we think (and have been taught) that is all great and amazing, but we have to earn it in order to have it applied to our lives. That is a lie and is a perfect example of deception. Victory over the enemy belongs to us because Jesus is in us.

In the first book of John, the author has a lot to say about who we are. In the second chapter of this book, verses 13 and 14, the author states emphatically that those he was writing to had OVERCOME the wicked one. We, ourselves, are overcomers because Jesus was the first to overcome! Because He overcame, we can overcome anything that the enemy puts in front of us that is not from God.

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

I John 4:4 (ESV)

Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

I John 5:5 (ESV)

When we fully understand who Jesus is and that He lives in us, walks with us, talks with us every moment of every day, we will celebrate. Our enemy has no power over us. He has been defeated. Deception has no power. Our eyes are open to see truth, because Jesus is Truth. Our hearts should be so filled with JOY every day that no one can ever take it from us! We live in JOY. Let it be so!