

Who is this King Who came to a world that was in desperate search of purpose To be the fulfillment of our joy

Who is this King This King of compassion and delight Who came to wake us up to the joy of knowing Him

Jesus, King of Joy.





Thank you, Jesus, For freeing us to know You For the confidence that there is truly no other For the intricacies of Your heart that you have for us to joyfully discover

> We draw near to You, Jesus, And right here we will remain Because YOU, Christ, are our joy And we come alive in the shadow of Your wings





Unsteady are the days we face Like shifting shadows they will change You knew we'd experience beauty, but You knew too we'd be met by deep pain

So King Jesus, when we're weary in the trial When worldly happiness takes leave We'll come to You, Shepherd of our soul To give thanks and to sing





We'll submit to You in worship, our forever worthy King We'll celebrate Your goodness We'll dance, we'll shout, we'll sing

Though it's hard to press on when the night feels long We'll take joy because You have not changed -You're still good You're still worthy of Your name





Jesus our Good News, You have sealed inexpressible and glorious joy in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, and it will not be stolen.

> Oh the joy of Christ dwelling with us today. Oh the joy of anticipating Your return. Oh the joy of an eternity with You.

Jesus, King of Joy, thank You for coming. You're changing everything.







JOY A Life Cultivating Joy LUKE 2:1-7



Thief of JOY "Dad, are you going to be okay?"



Luke 2:1-3 NIV In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)³ And everyone went to their own town to register.



Luke 2:4-5 NIV

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.



Luke 2:6-7 NIV While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.





Luke 2:10-11 NIV But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."



Joy is a hope-filled reality and response.

In Old and New Testaments, joy is expressed as a:

Term – 15 Hebrew / 8 Greek terms describing joy **Perspective** – embrace in all circumstances **Gift** – received through God's Spirit and faith **Practice** – response to/rejoice in God and his promises **Relationship** – recognize and experience joy in God's presence





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- **Perspective:** embrace in all circumstances.
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In Old and New Testaments, joy is expressed as a:



Joy is the hope-filled reality and response of the soul that is near to God.





"God designed our brains to seek joy through eyes and facial expressions, through being with people who are glad to be with us... ⁽¹⁾ Joy is primarily transmitted through the face (especially the eyes) and secondarily through voice. ⁽²⁾ Joy is relational. It is what we feel when we are with someone who is happy to be with us. Joy does not exist outside of a relationship. ⁽³⁾ Joy is important to God and to us."

- Jim Wilder, The Other Half of Church



"the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Psalm 16:11 NIV 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.

Hebrews 12:2a NIV fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross...

Numbers 6:25-26 NIV



Luke 23:1-2 NLT Then the entire council took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor.² They began to state their case: "This man has been leading our people astray by telling them not to pay their taxes to the Roman government and by claiming he is the Messiah, a king."



John 19:25-26a, 28, 30 NIV

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ^{26a} When Jesus saw his mother there... ²⁸ Later, **knowing that everything had now been finished**, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."...

³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, **"It is finished."** With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



Luke 23:50-53 NLT

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph. He was a member of the Jewish high council, ⁵¹ but he had not agreed with the decision and actions of the other religious leaders. He was from the town of Arimathea in Judea, and he was **waiting for the Kingdom of God** to come. ⁵² He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁵³ Then he took the body down from the cross and **wrapped it in a long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb** that had been carved out of rock.





Luke 24:1-3, 6-7 NLT

But very e taking the had been they didn' ⁶ "He isn't told you k into the ha rise again

But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ³ So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus...

⁶ "He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! **Remember what he told you** back in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."



Luke 24:12 ESV But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.



The hope-filled reality and response of the soul that is near to God.

Luke 24:38-41 NLT

"Why are you frightened?" he asked. "Why are your hearts filled with doubt? ³⁹ Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do." ⁴⁰ As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ Still they stood there **in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder**. Then he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"





Immanuel, The King of Joy

"Even though I walk through the valley, I fear no evil, for God is with me."





- "Joy is essential to the spiritual life... Jesus reveals to us God's love so that his joy may become ours and that our joy may become complete. Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing—sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death—can take that love away.
- Joy is not the same as happiness. We can be unhappy about many things, but joy can still be there because it comes from the knowledge of God's love for us. . ."
- Henri Nouwen, Here and Now



"Joy does not simply happen to us. **We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.** It is a choice based on the knowledge that we belong to God and have found in God our refuge and our safety and that nothing, not even death, can take God away from us."

- Henri Nouwen, Here and Now

A life-time of cultivating joy by enjoying time with God

you can always choose to:

Pause and Pray – to set your mind on things above **Give Thanks** – to count your blessings **Recall Scripture** – to claim God's promises **Rejoice in the Lord** – to obey and act on what you know to be true

Regardless of your mood/circumstances,

