

CHRISTMAS for ALL

Week 3: Joy

1 Chronicles 16:25-27,

²⁵For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

²⁶For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

²⁷**Splendor and majesty are before him;
STRENGTH and JOY are in his dwelling place.**

Advent reminds us:

God is **IN CONTROL.**

God is **AT WORK.**

God is **WITH US.**

Matthew 1:22-23

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

²³"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

John 1:14

**The Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us.**

We have seen his glory,
the glory of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Judges 6:14, 27

¹⁴The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength **YOU HAVE** and save Israel out of Midian's hand. **Am I not sending you?"**

²⁷So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord told him. But because he was afraid of his family and the townspeople, he did it at night rather than in the daytime.

How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new life in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new life from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text "FAITH" to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

What is your most **joyful** Christmas memory?

What has most resonated with you during the "Christmas for All" series so far? What has caused you to "pause and process" with Holy Spirit?

Read the scriptures on the other side of this guide.

:: How does God seem to connect joy and strength?

:: How do you see the reality of God being in control, at work, and with us in these passages?

:: Where is God speaking to you about rooting your joy and strength in these truths?

Pastor Jeremiah asked, "What would someone with joy and strength do in your current circumstance—what would someone do if they were convinced God is in control, at work, and with us?"

:: What answer came to mind? How is that different than what you've been doing?

:: How does this change what you ask God to do in this season?

:: Who can you ask to help encourage your and offer you some of their joy and strength as you seek to live this out?

Who in your sphere of influence can you offer joy and strength to in this season?

Consider how a Heritage Christmas box (available in lobbies) might help you do that.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Pastor Jeremiah X. Gómez (@jxgomez) – December 12, 2021

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November Financial Update

Budget November Year To Date \$1,488,000

Received November Year To Date \$1,182,640

% Budget Deficit 21%



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