

- ❑ Isaiah 35:6-7, NIV – (6) *Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. (7) Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.*

SATAN’S STRATEGY TO ROB US

1. To Afflict Us

- ❑ To get our attention on Us and our troubles

2. To Deceive Us

- ❑ To confuse our thinking, muddle our values, and offer us a weak alternative: “Happiness”

OUR STRATEGY

- ❑ Break out of any strongholds of thinking/feeling, and no longer shortchange ourselves.

THIS SEASON’S CHALLENGE

- ❑ Will this year be a celebration of “tidings of great joy”? ... or just a “happy holiday”?
- ❑ Are you looking to others and things going ‘right’ (your way) for “Happy”?
- ❑ Are you burdened, feeling the responsibility to make others happy?

CHRISTMAS JOY – ALL YEAR ROUND

Kathy Hibbert – December 17, 2006

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THE COUNTERFEIT CALLED “HAPPY”

- ❑ “Happy” is you and circumstance dependent
- ❑ Happy is a counterfeit, a substitute for Joy

- ❑ The Angel announced ‘*Glad tidings of great JOY*’
Luke 2:10, NIV

THE REALITY CALLED “JOY”

1. Joy Is Part Of The Fruit Of The Spirit

- ❑ Galatians 5:22-23, ASV – *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law.*

2. Joy Of The Lord Is Our Strength

- ❑ Nehemiah 8:10, NIV – *The Joy of the Lord is our strength.*
- ❑ 2 Thessalonians 3:13 NKJV – *But you, brothers, do not be weary in well doing.*
- ❑ Weariness comes from drawing on our own strength and resources

HOW DO WE GET THIS JOY?

- ❑ Romans 14:17, NIV – *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit ...*

1. We ASK

- ❑ John 16:24 NIV – *Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.*

2. We RECEIVE God's WORD

- ❑ John 17:13, NIV – ... *I say these things (The Word) while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.*

a) The Written Word

- ❑ We can know and meditate on the Bible, the word of God

b) The Living Word

- ❑ Joy comes from an intimate, face to face, relationship with Jesus
- ❑ 2 Timothy 1:12, NIV – ... *Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.*

- ❑ Know – “to have seen or perceived, hence to know.”
- ❑ Root word – “to see, perceive, to attend to”
- ❑ Also – “Appreciate, aware of, become learned, recognize, understand”

3. We ENDURE

- ❑ John 16:21, NIV – *A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world.*
- ❑ Hebrews 13:8, KJV – *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”*
- ❑ When we gain an eternal perspective on life, basing our reason for Joy on those things that cannot change, then our Joy doesn't need to come and go either.

JOY DOES NOT CHANGE WITH CIRCUMSTANCES

- ❑ 2 Corinthians 8:2 NIV – *Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.*
- ❑ Their Joy was their wellspring of life