

3. Joy Brings To You God's Right Hand

- Psalm 118:14, NIV – (14) *The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. (15) Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: “The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!” (16) “The LORD’s right hand is lifted high; the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”*

LEARNING TO EAT AND DRINK WITH GOD

1. We Must Eat And Drink With Joy

- John 6:54, 63, NIV – (54) *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ... (63) The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.*
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6, NIV – (6) ... *you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.*

2. We Must Allow God's Revealed Word To Become Food To Us

- Jeremiah 15:16, NASB – (16) *Thy words were found and I ate them, And Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart ...*
 - a) “Your Words Were Found” - Revelation
 - b) “I Ate Them” – Embrace The Word
 - c) Thy Words Became “For Me” - Personalize
 - d) Thy Words Became For Me “A Joy” – Get Excited
 - e) Thy Words Became For Me A Joy And “The Delight Of My Heart” – Celebrate The Word
- Psalm 119:14, 103, NIV – (14) *I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. ... (103) How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

3. Joy Releases God's Word With Power

- Isaiah 54:1-3, NIV – (1) *“Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband,” says the LORD. (2) “Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. (3) For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.*

THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF JOY

Part 3 – Joy Attracts The Presence Of God

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REVIEW

- Nehemiah 8:10, NIV - ... *Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*
 1. Joy Is The Consequence Of Rejoicing
 2. The Joy Of The Lord Is A Place Of Divine Protection, Defense, Safety And Refuge
 3. Joy Empower Us To Receive
 - Isaiah 12:3, NIV – (3) *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*
 - Matthew 13:20, NIV – (20) *The one who received ... is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.*

THE PATH TO GOD'S PRESENCE

- Exodus 24:1, 9-12, 15-16, NIV – (1) *Then he said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. ... (7) Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.” ... (9) *Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ... (11) they saw God, and they ate and drank. (12) *The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and stay here ...” (15) *When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, (16) and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. ...****
- Psalm 42:7, NIV – (7) *Deep calls to deep ...*
- Exodus 20:18-21, NIV – (18) *When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance (19) and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.” (20) *Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.” (21) *The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.***

THE INVITATION TO EAT AND DRINK WITH GOD

1. Be Willing To Obey God's Revelation

- Nehemiah 8:5-6, NIV – (5) *Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. (6) Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ...*

2. Receive The Word With Joy

- Nehemiah 8:8-9, NIV – (8) *They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read. (9) Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.*
- Matthew 13:20, NIV – (20) *The one who received ... is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.*
- Nehemiah 8:10, NIV – (10) *Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”*
- Nehemiah 8:11-12, NIV – (11) *The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve.” (12) Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.*
- John 6:53-54, NIV – (53) *Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. (54) Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.*
- John 6:60, 66, NIV – (60) *On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” ... (66) From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.*

- Steps To Climb Up The Mountain Into The Presence Of The Lord Into The Presence Of His Glory
 - A fresh revelation of God and His word – to be received with joy
 - A commitment to obey His word – to obey with joy
 - An eating and drinking – eating and drinking with joy
 - A hunger to go up even higher – to enjoy the presence of the Lord
- The key to receiving and experiencing anything from God, is to receive it with joy

THE DANGER OF FAMILIARITY

- Intimacy is always striving for more knowledge, more understanding, more closeness, and at the same time, always being grateful for what you presently have

JOY ATTRACTS THE PRESENCE OF GOD

1. Joy Must Come Before Obedience

- Isaiah 64:5, LITV – (5) *You meet him who rejoices and works righteousness; they recall You in Your ways.*
- Religion says, “do right, and then rejoice”, “do what is right, and be happy about it”
- The truth of God's Word is, “rejoice, and then do right”
- Matthew 11:28-30, NIV – (28) *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*
- Philippians 3:1; 4:4, NIV – (1) *Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! ... it is a safeguard for you. ...*

2. Joy Moves You Closer To God

- Psalm 95:1-2, NASB – (1) *O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. (2) Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.*