



15 What has happened to all your joy... Galatians 4:15(NIV)

**The Code of Christmas Joy:**

- Christmas is not designed to be an annual holiday, but a daily celebration.
- We experience joy when we bring God into our daily lives.  
7 The LORD is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. Psalm 28:7 (NLT)
- We look at others with love.
- We experience joy when we choose love others.
- The joy of Christmas is contagious only when we share it.  
17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. Luke 2:17-18 (NIV)
- We experience joy when we choose to share who is in our heart.
- Happiness is based on conditions around me.
- Joy is a byproduct of God within me.  
22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,... Galatians 5:22 (NLT)
- Joy is discovered in relationship with your heavenly father.  
11 You lead me in the path of life; I experience absolute joy in your presence; you always give me sheer delight. Psalm 16:11 (NET)  
JOY is the positive optimism that the Holy Spirit produces in us, it changes our perspective and allows us to anticipate and experience God's activity in our lives.
- Life doesn't have to be perfect to experience joy.  
2 ...when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. James 1:2-4 (NLT)
- <sup>46</sup> And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior... Luke 1:46-47 (NIV)

- Joy comes from knowing God.

JOY is the hopeful confidence we have from knowing and trusting God regardless of the circumstances.

You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:8-9 (NIV)

I am always thinking of the Lord; and because he is so near, I never need to stumble or to fall. Heart, body, and soul are filled with joy. Psalm 16:8-9 (TLB)

17 God's kingdom isn't a matter of what you put in your stomach, for goodness' sake. It's what God does with your life as he sets it right, puts it together, and completes it with joy. Romans 14:17

- You can have joy because God is with you!

JOY is the settled assurance that God is in control of every detail in my life, the confidence that ultimately everything will be all right, and the determined choice to praise God in all things.

8 That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and they became very frightened. 10 The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all the people.

11 Today your Savior was born in the town of David. He is Christ, the Lord. Luke 2:8-11 (NCV)

- Your joy is tied to your savior.

11 Today your Savior was born in the town of David. He is Christ, the Lord. Luke 2:11 (NCV)

10 ... the joy of the LORD is your strength. Nehemiah 8:10 (NLT)



**TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE  
IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

**Questions for Connection Groups:**

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- What is your favorite part of the Movie Elf?
- How can we have a better experience of joy in our daily lives?
- Discuss the points under the heading "The code of Christmas joy". What are the daily choices we need to make?
- How is joy discovered in relationship with your heavenly Father?
- How would you explain the joy that God gives us, even when things are not perfect?
- Talk about this definition of Joy: JOY is the hopeful confidence we have from knowing and trusting God regardless of the circumstances. What does that confidence look like?
- How does God's presence bring us joy?
- Discuss the definition that begins: JOY is the settled assurance that God is in control of every detail in my life... What does assurance look like in our lives? How important is it to have assurance?
- Read Luke 2:8-11. Why do you think the the angles said that their good news would bring joy to all people? Do you think that is true in our world today?
- Do you find God's joy to be your strength? explain.

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fresnoquest.com**

OTHER NOTES:

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# WELCOME

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**Today's Movie..**

**"ELF"**

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Information available in the courtyard.



**The Quest Church**

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Doing life together