

Joy

*But the angel said to them: "Do not be afraid,
I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."*

Luke 2:10

Despite singing about it at this holy season ... *"Joy to the world, the Lord is come" ... "Tidings of comfort and joy" ...* often we forget the meaning of the joy of the season. We get so bogged down in lists and shopping and decorating and baking and parties and rehearsals and cantatas and ... and ... and ... that we forget to find joy.

And, even more, sometimes as Christians we forget what the joy of Christ really means. It was joy that was born in a stable in Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago.

The joy of Christ isn't a life of ease and perfection. In fact, the writer to the Hebrews reminds us,

*"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the author and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy set before Him endured the
cross, scorning its shame, and sat down
at the right hand of the throne of God."*

~Hebrews 12:2

So, *"Joy to the world, the Lord is come"* is also the joy of the cross. It is the joy of the runner who has completed a race, yet suffered hardship. It is the joy of investing at great cost, with an eternal reward. It is the joy of being a new creation in Christ. It is the joy of the crucifixion and resurrection and ascension of Christ. James wrote,

*"Consider it pure joy, my brothers,
whenever you face trials of many kinds,
because you know that the testing of
your faith develops perseverance."*

~James 1:2

Somehow we rarely seek joy in testing. Yet,

it is through this process that we discover the strength and support of Christ. And, through that we find real joy. So, the joy of this season is the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

This Christmas, focus on the joy of the manger, the cross, the empty tomb, and the risen Savior. In that is the true meaning of Christmas.

*~ Anita Fitzgerald Henck
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Dear Lord, Our Strength,

The race seems so long. It IS tiring. But, the victory is so sweet, so fulfilling, so invigorating. Even when I seem the most tired, Your gift of the spiritual second wind is the most blessed thing I could receive just then. You ARE my joy, and Your presence and power bring more to me than I have ever found any place else. I love You, Lord. And I'm beginning to believe that the joy in that is mutual between us. I surely hope that this means as much to You, as it does to me. Amen.

Jesus, Oh What A Wonderful Child

Jesus, Jesus

*Oh, What a wonderful child
Jesus, Jesus, So lowly meek and mild
New life, new hope, new joy He brings
Won't you listen to the angels sing
Glory, glory, glory
To the new born King*

More ...



He was herald by the angels
Born in a lowly manger
The virgin Mary was His mother
And Joseph was His earthly father
Three wise men came from afar
They were guided by a shining star
To see King Jesus where He lay
In a manger filled with hay

Jesus, Jesus
Oh, What a wonderful child
Jesus, Jesus
So lowly meek and mild
Oh new life, new hope,
New joy He brings
Won't you listen to the angels sing
Glory to the new born King

Oh, Jesus, Jesus
Mary's baby, Lamb of God
Heavenly Child
Jesus, Jesus, I Love Him

Oh, Jesus
All Mighty God, King of kings
Oh Jesus, Oh Jesus
Oh, oh, oh, Jesus
Wonderful, Wonderful one

Oh, oh, Oh, Jesus
Oh, Jesus, Son of God
Oh, Jesus
Glory to the new born King
Yeah



The Jesus Child

Have you heard the story they're telling 'bout Bethlehem,
Have you heard the story of the Jesus child?
How He came from heaven and was born in a manger bed?
Mary was His virgin mother pure and mild,
Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia sisters,
worship the Jesus child and praise His mother mild,
"Glory to God on high" the angel hosts above are singing:
Listen to the story of the Jesus child.

Have you heard the story of the poor humble shepherd men,
Sitting on the hillside with their flocks at night?
Suddenly the angel tells them: hurry to Bethlehem,
Go and find the Jesus child, the world's new light,
Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia sisters,
worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild,
"Glory to God on high" the angel hosts above are singing:
Listen to the story of the Jesus child.

Jesus child, lying at Bethlehem, sleeping safe at Mary's knee,
Save my soul and bring me to paradise,
Let me join the angels singing glory to thee
Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia sisters,
worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild,
"Glory to God on high" the angel hosts above are singing:
Listen to the story of the Jesus child.

Have you heard the story of the kings from the orient,
Following the star that's shining over His head?
Offering their precious gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense,
Kneeling with the ox and ass before His bed?
Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia sisters, worship the Jesus
child and praise his mother mild,
"Glory to God on high" the angel hosts above are singing:
Listen to the story of the Jesus child

Brothers, let us celebrate the birth of the Jesus child,
Sisters, come and welcome Him, the newborn King;
Praise the Lord who sent Him down from
heaven at Christmas time,
Young and old and rich and poor, His praises sing.
Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia sisters,
worship the Jesus child and praise his mother mild,
"Glory to God on high" the angel hosts above are singing:
Listen to the story of the Jesus child