





Reluctant Joy

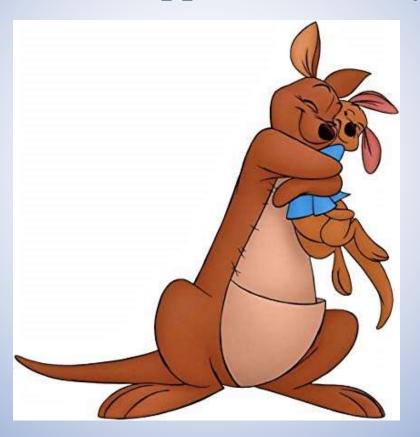


Unbridled Joy

Different Approaches to Joy



Childlike Joy



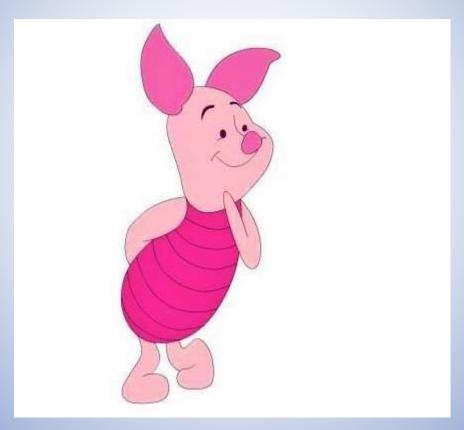
Nurturing Joy



Organized Joy



Dignified Joy



Uncertain Joy



Contagious Joy



Does God Spark Joy in You?

"My heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices...
For you will not abandon my soul to the grave, or let your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy. At your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (Psalm 16:9-11)

Does God Spark Joy in You?

"They [continued] daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house they ate their meals with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people." (Acts 2:46-47)

Jesus Came to Bring Joy

"[Jesus said], 'The Spirit of the Lord...has anointed me...to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'" (Luke 4:18-19)

The Year of Jubilee—cancelling all debts, releasing slaves, planting no crops, returning property to the original owner—was a celebration of the gracious restoration of God.

Jesus Came to Bring Joy

Jubilee—the Festal Sound of Celebration.

The Hebrew word Jubal: "A ram's horn."

Jesus Came to Bring Joy

Jubilee—the Festal Sound of Celebration.

"David danced before the LORD with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn." (2 Samuel 6:14-15)

The Joy of God's Restoration

"This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!"

(Nehemiah 8:9-10)

The Joy of God's Restoration

Celebrating God's restoration through feasts:

- Passover (atonement for sin)
- Pentecost (reaping the harvest)
- Booths (a commemoration of deliverance)

"You shall keep the Feast of Booths seven days, when you have gathered in the produce from your threshing floor and your winepress..."
(Deuteronomy 16:13-15)

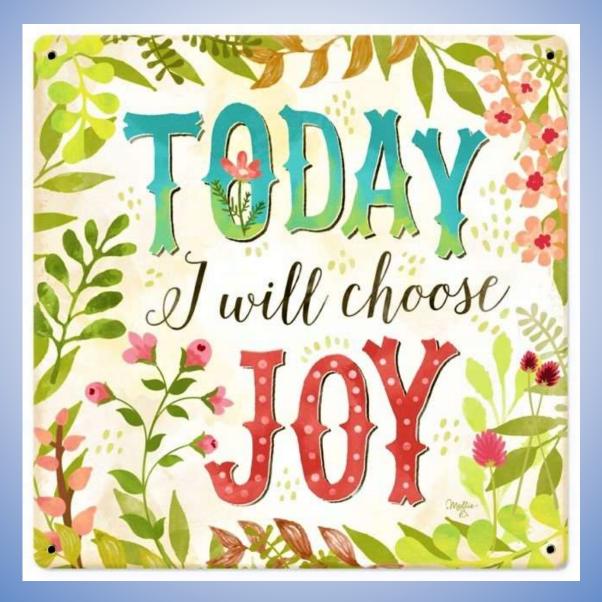
The Joy of God's Restoration

Celebrating God's restoration through feasts:

- Passover (atonement for sin)
- Pentecost (reaping the harvest)
- Booths (a commemoration of deliverance)

"You shall rejoice in your feast...because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful."

(Deuteronomy 16:13-15)



Choose Joy!

We can choose to recognize the joy that surrounds us.

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything is worthy of praise, dwell on these things." (Philippians 4:8)

Choose Joy!

We can choose to recognize the joy that surrounds us.

"This is the day that the LORD has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!" (Psalm 118:24)

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)

"Let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God." (Hebrews 13:15)



"When you wake up in the morning, Pooh," said Piglet. "What's the first thing you say to yourself?"











Our Holy Fire

"All joy (as distinct from mere pleasure...) emphasizes our pilgrim status—it always reminds, beckons, and awakens desire. Our best *havings* are *wantings*."

- C.S. Lewis

Our Holy Fire

"Join the great company of those who make the barren places of life fruitful with kindness. Carry a vision of heaven in your hearts and you shall make your world, correspond to that vision...Joy is the holy fire that keeps your purpose warm and your intelligence aglow. Resolve to keep happy (*joyful*), then you and your joy will form an invincible host against difficulty."

Hellen Keller

Our Holy Fire

"Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live. In your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night. For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy." (Psalm 63:3-7)

