

ADVENT - 3

The Anticipation of Joy

- Happiness is an _____ that must be _____.
- We are unable to _____ the gifts that matter most.

Luke 2:8-14 (NIV) And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

1. The gift of God is _____.

Galatians 4:3-5 (NLT) And that’s the way it was with us before Christ came. We were like children; we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world. ⁴ But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵ God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

2. The _____ of Jesus brings joy.

Psalms 16:11 (NLT) You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever.

- This joy is more than _____, it’s _____!

3. The joy of Jesus is _____.

James 1:2-3 (NIV) Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

How do we live IN and live OUT this joy?

- Establish a _____ of being with God.

Mark 1:35 (NIV) Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

- Stand firm on the _____ of God.

Matthew 13:23 (NIV) But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

James 1:22 (NIV) Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

- Surround yourself with the _____ of God.

Galatians 5:13 (NIV) You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

John 15:11 (ESV) These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.