

Sukkot Exhortation

On **Sukkot** we are **Commanded** to *Rejoice*. But it's been a **Tough Year**, what can we be *Joyful* about?

A. We can be *Joyful* that we are **alive** (both **physically** and **spiritually**),
and that we can still **gather** “**fruit for life eternal.**” (John 4:36)

For whoever is **joined** with all the **living**, there is **hope**;
surely a **live dog** is **better** than a **dead lion**.

For the **living** know they will **die**; but the **dead** do **not know anything**,
nor have they any longer a **reward**, for their **memory** is **forgotten**.

Indeed their **love**, their **hate** and their **zeal** have already **perished**,
and they will no longer have a **share** in all that is done under the sun.

Go *then*, **eat** your bread in **happiness**
and **drink** your wine with a **cheerful heart**;
for **God** has already **approved your works**. (Ecclesiastes 9:4-7)

B. We can be *Joyful* that **God** has **given** us **another day**.

This is **the day** which **the LORD** has made;
Let us **rejoice** and be **glad in it**. (Psalm 118:24)

For **His (God's) anger** is but for a **moment**,
His favor is for a **lifetime**;
Weeping may last for **the night**,
But a **shout of joy** comes in **the morning**. (Psalm 30:5)

C. We can have *Joy* in our **Salvation**

I will **rejoice greatly** in the **LORD**,
My soul will **exult** in my **God**;

For **He** has **clothed me** with **garments of salvation**,
He has **wrapped me** with a **robe of righteousness**,
As a **bridegroom** decks himself with a garland,
And as a bride **adorns** herself with her jewels. (Isaiah 61:10)

Though the **fig tree** should **not blossom**
And there be **no fruit** on the **vines**,
Though the **yield** of the **olive** should **fail**
And the **fields** produce **no food**,
Though the **flock** should be **cut off** from the **fold**
And there be **no cattle** in the **stalls**,
Yet I will **exult in the LORD**,
I will **rejoice** in the **God of my salvation**. (Habakkuk 3:17-18)

D. We can be *Joyful* in the Blessings of God

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And all that is within me, **ble**ss His holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget none of His **benefits**;
Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;
Who redeems your life from the pit,

Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
Who satisfies your years with good things,
So that your youth is **renewed** like the eagle. (Psalm 103:1-5)

E. We can be *Joyful* in the Provision of God

He causes the grass to grow for the cattle,
And **vegetation** for the labor of man,
So that **he** may bring forth food from the earth,
And **wine** which makes man's heart glad,
So that **he** may make *his* face glisten with oil,
And **food** which sustains man's heart...

There is the **sea**, great and broad,
In which are **swarms** without number,
Animals both small and great...

They all **wait for You**
To **give them** their food in due season.
You **give** to them, they **gather it** up;
You **open Your hand**, they are **satisfied with good**...

I will **sing** to the LORD as long as I live;
I will **sing praise** to my God while I have my being.
Let my **meditation** be **pleasing to Him**;
As for me, I shall **be glad in the LORD**. (Psalm 104:14-15, 25, 27-28, 33-34)

F. We can be *Joyful* in the **midst of trials** and **suffering**, *knowing* that they often result in **our spiritual growth** and *maturity*.

Consider it **all joy**, my brethren, when you encounter **various trials**,
knowing that the **testing of your faith produces** endurance. (James 1:2-3)

...and you have forgotten the **exhortation** which is addressed to **you as sons**,

"MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD,
NOR **FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;**..

All discipline for the moment seems **not to be joyful**, but **sorrowful**;
yet to those who have been **trained by it**, afterwards
it **yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness**. (Hebrews 12:5, 11)

G. We can have *Joy* in the *study* and *knowledge* of the word of God

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is *pure, enlightening the eyes*. (Psalm 19:8)

Your words were found and I ate them,
And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart;
For I have been called by Your name,
O LORD God of hosts. (Jeremiah 15:16)

H. We experience *Joy* by the Holy Spirit

Now may the God of hope *fill you* with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Romans 15:13)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;..(Galatians 5:22)

I. We can experience *Joy* when we *connect* with others in fellowship

Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple,
and breaking bread from house to house,
they (the disciples) were taking their meals together with gladness
and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people.

And the Lord was adding to their number day by day
those who were being saved. (Acts 2:46-47)

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
(Romans 12:15)

J. We can have *Joy* in the future hope (and joy) of our final salvation

He (the Lord) will swallow up death for all time,
And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces,
And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth;
For the LORD has spoken.
And it will be said in that day,
“Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited
that He might save us.”

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”(Isaiah 25:8-9)

K. We can *Rejoice* that God, our sovereign and righteous Judge, will soon come and judge the world in righteousness.

Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns;
Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved;
He will judge the peoples with equity.”

Let the **heavens** be **glad**, and let the **earth rejoice**;
Let the **sea roar**, and all it contains;
Let the **field exult**, and all that is in it.

Then all the **trees** of the forest will **sing for joy**
Before **the LORD**, for **He is coming**,
For **He is coming to judge** the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness
And the **peoples** in **His faithfulness**. (Psalm 96:10-13)

Closing Comments