

March 14, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Isa. 55:12 *You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.* (NIV)

When the people of God turn to Him, listen to Him and allow His Word to take residence in them, then they will be filled with joy. This is what Nehemiah made mention of in **Neh. 8:10** *Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."* (NIV) If you want to be strengthened today, it is found in His joy. This is not a joy that we can summon on our own. It comes only from the person of God. He is the giver of all good things. Have you ever noticed that when someone is so full of joy, they usually lift up their hands? Where does your joy come from? We know that joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit. As we allow Him to have more and more control in our lives, we will experience more and more joy. I have also noticed that when I am living in the joy of the LORD, I begin to see things from His perspective instead of my own. And when this happens, His joy floods my soul. Everything around me seems to take on a different view. What once may have been annoying in some way, now becomes a blessing that He is using to mold me more and more into His likeness. I admit I have a long, long way to go, but I will continue to keep my eyes fixed on Him.

Let's take this challenge together today and walk in the joy of the LORD. Then begin to notice the difference it makes as we go out in joy and be led forth in peace!

Dear LORD, this is not something we can do on our own. We need Your Spirit to lead and guide us as we walk in Your presence. In Jesus Name, Amen