





A. In its *intensity*.

"And when she recognized Peter's voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate. And they said to her, 'You are out of your mind!' But she kept insisting that it was so. And they kept saying, 'It is his angel.' But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were amazed." Acts 12:14-16

"And...He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still could not believe it for joy and were marveling, He said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they gave Him a piece of broiled fish; and He took it and ate it before them." Luke 24:40-43

B. In its availability.

"...good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people." Luke 2:10

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!" Phil. 4:4

"For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Rom. 14:17

2. FOUND IN JESUS.

"For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

"They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. After seeing Him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherd's story were astonished."

Luke 2:16-18 (NLT)

"Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing...Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name. For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, and His faithfulness to all generations." Ps. 100

"For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; He also is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens." 1 Chron. 16:25-26

"Splendor and majesty are before Him, strength and joy are in His place." vs. 27

"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; and let them say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns.'" vs. 31

"...in Thy presence is fulness of joy; in Thy right hand there are pleasures forever." Ps. 16:11

3. INDEPENDENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

"And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night." Luke 2:8

"...Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed." Luke 1:46-48 (NLT)

"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven..." Matt. 5:11-12 (NLT)

"In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials." 1 Peter 1:6

"And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory." 1 Peter 1:8

4. ETERNAL.

"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end." Luke 1:32-33

"And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away." Isa. 35:8-10 (NIV)

"For the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes." Rev. 7:17

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matt. 5:4

"And He shall wipe away ever tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; for the first things have passed away." Rev. 21:4

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." Jude 24

APPLICATION FOR ME:

Joy is for those who have received the gift of God's love.

"And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy." Matt. 2:10

Joy is for those who abide in Christ.

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full." John 15:11

Joy is for those who know that He reigns.

"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; and let them say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns." 1 Chron. 16:31

