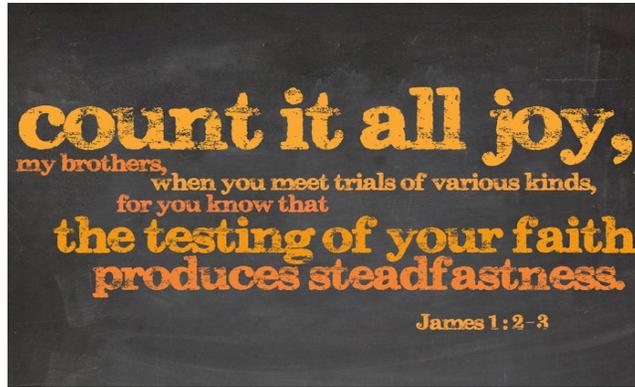




Lewiston Church of Christ

February 23, 2020



Joy!

“Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”
(Nehemiah 8:10)

Weekly Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:45 AM

Worship 10:45 AM

Sun. Day/Evening Groups

Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

Cal Groen: 208-602-8165

DEACONS

Education – Rick Richardson

Fellowship – Joe Bieren

Finance – Tom Hill

Outreach – Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building – Ken Vogtman

Custodian – Ron & Cindy Roberson

Fellowship – Joe & Carrie Bieren

Grounds – Cody & Doyle Dawes

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

Secretary – Renee’ Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes

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Last Wednesday, during our singing ministry rehearsal, the words, “Smiling is Contagious” were staring at me the whole time. We were in the church library and Leslie Cline-Walk was sitting at the table with a tote bag at her side featuring the phrase, “Smiling is Contagious.” At the same time, we were practicing a new song called, “Joy.” I got the message.

The Bible says, “the joy of the Lord is your strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10). The historical setting for this declaration of joy was summed up by Nehemiah who said, “You see the trouble we are in, how Jerusalem lies in ruins with its gates burned. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.” (Nehemiah 2:17).

Nehemiah was telling the Israelites to get to work. What better resource for strength is there than the joy of the Lord? I know of none. When you are in trouble and your life is in ruins, remember that “the joy of the Lord is your strength.” If that cannot make you smile, nothing can.

To be honest, cynicism, negativism, and anger can be just as contagious as smiling. The difference is in the choices we make. Even if you have a long history of choosing cynicism, those choices can be unchosen. Beginning today, choose joy.

Happiness, for some, is something that happens. Godly joy, on the other hand, is something we choose by turning to Him for hope. When surrounded by negative people, we turn and choose joy. When inundated by cynicism, we turn and choose hope. When beset by deep disappointments, we choose to dig deeper in search of joy! It all begins by turning to God. When you feel down, choose more fellowship to get out of your slump. When you feel tired in church, turn to God and sing all the louder. When you feel stingy, trust in God and choose generosity. When you feel isolated, turn to the Lord and choose hospitality. Just remember, too much turning can make you dizzy and confused. The point is to turn to the Lord. He is our strengthening source of our joy.

Joel Solliday