



**RCC Phoenix – 10.25.20 – I Choose Joy**

The world has a skewed version of joy.

The 1<sup>st</sup> listed definition of the word “Joy” in the Merriam-Webster Dictionary:

-the \_\_\_\_\_ evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or *by the prospect of possessing what one desires*

The Bible’s Definition of Joy:

-Delight, \_\_\_\_\_

1. Because God \_\_\_\_\_ Us

In the Roman world, adoption was a \_\_\_\_\_ practice.

If a man had no sons or if he felt that his sons were incapable of managing his wealth or were unworthy of it, he would have to adopt someone who would make a \_\_\_\_\_ son.

\_\_\_\_\_ boys and/or adult men were normally adopted.

When the adoption was legally approved, the adoptee would have all his debts cancelled and he would receive a new \_\_\_\_\_. He would be the legal son of his adoptive father and entitled to all the rights and benefits of a son.

A father could disown his natural-born son, but an adoption was \_\_\_\_\_.

**Romans 8:15-17 NLT**

“So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.”

**Galatians 4:4-7 NLT**

“But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. 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. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.”

When we become Children of God, adopted into His family through faith in Christ, He will never \_\_\_\_\_ us.

*Charles Spurgeon Quote:*

“It is the right and portion of every believer to live in the assurance that he is reconciled to God, that God loves him, and that he is God's child, and if he doth not so live he has himself only to blame. If there be any starving at God's table, it is because the guest stints (holds back) himself, for the feast is superabundant.”

In moments when we are overwhelmed by the worries and cares of this life, we need to remember whose we are.

2. Because We Have God's \_\_\_\_\_

**Nehemiah 8:9-12 NLT**

“Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were interpreting for the people said to them, “Don't mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the Lord your God.” For the people had all been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. And Nehemiah continued, “Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!” And the Levites, too, quieted the people, telling them, “Hush! Don't weep! For this is a sacred day.” So the people went away to eat and drink at a festive meal, to share gifts of food, and to celebrate with great joy because they had heard God's words and understood them.”

When we open our Bible we are holding the \_\_\_\_\_, breathing, Word of God.

3. Because We Have God's \_\_\_\_\_

There many things that God has promised His children in Scripture:

A. *Promise:* \_\_\_\_\_ for Your Soul

**Matthew 11:28-29 NLT**

“Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

B. *Promise:* \_\_\_\_\_ That Guards Your Heart

**Philippians 4:6-7 NLT**

“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

C. *Promise:* \_\_\_\_\_ for All Who Ask

**James 1:5 NLT**

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.”

D. The ultimate promise of God to us is \_\_\_\_\_ through faith in Christ.

**John 3:16-18 NLT**

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son.”

**Acts 4:11-12 NLT**

“For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’ There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

*Question:* How do we choose joy?

The “Power of Positive Thinking” is ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ because it relies on our own human power.

- The power we have will eventually run out.
- The discipline we employ will give way.
- The persistence we show will subside.

**Romans 15:13 NLT**

“I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace *because you trust in him*. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

I choose joy by reminding myself in every circumstance:

- God wants us, \_\_\_\_\_ adopted us and will never disown us.
- God gave us His Word to teach, understand and \_\_\_\_\_ us.
- God made us a promise of \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.