



LIVING WITH PURPOSE

THE JOY OF THE LORD

Though you have not seen him, you love him.
Though you do not now see him, you believe in him
and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible
and filled with glory

1 Peter 1:8



NEHEMIAH 8:1-12

THE CONTEXT

- ^{NIV} **NEHEMIAH 8:2** SO ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE SEVENTH MONTH EZRA THE PRIEST BROUGHT THE LAW BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY, WHICH WAS MADE UP OF MEN AND WOMEN ...
 - FEAST OF TRUMPETS (LEVITICUS 23:24)
 - SEPTEMBER 27, 444 BC

THE FOCUS

- ^{NIV} **NEHEMIAH 8:2** ...EZRA THE PRIEST BROUGHT THE LAW BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY ... ³ HE READ IT ALOUD FROM DAYBREAK TILL NOON AS HE FACED THE SQUARE BEFORE THE WATER GATE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MEN, WOMEN AND OTHERS WHO COULD UNDERSTAND. AND ALL THE PEOPLE LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO THE BOOK OF THE LAW.

UNDERSTANDING THE LAW

- ^{NIV} **NEHEMIAH 8:2** ...ALL WHO WERE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ...
- ^{ESV} **NEHEMIAH 8:3** ... THOSE WHO COULD UNDERSTAND ...
- ^{ESV} **NEHEMIAH 8:7** ... HELPED THE PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND ...
- ^{NIV} **NEHEMIAH 8:8** ...SO THAT THE PEOPLE COULD UNDERSTAND ...
- ^{NIV} **NEHEMIAH 8:12** ... BECAUSE THEY NOW UNDERSTOOD ...

UNDERSTANDING LED TO WEeping

- ^{NIV} **NEHEMIAH 8:8** THEY READ FROM THE BOOK OF THE LAW OF GOD, MAKING IT CLEAR AND GIVING THE MEANING SO THAT THE PEOPLE COULD UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS BEING READ. ⁹ THEN NEHEMIAH THE GOVERNOR, EZRA THE PRIEST AND SCRIBE, AND THE LEVITES WHO WERE INSTRUCTING THE PEOPLE SAID TO THEM ALL, "THIS DAY IS SACRED TO THE LORD YOUR GOD. DO NOT MOURN OR WEEP." FOR ALL THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN WEeping AS THEY LISTENED TO THE WORDS OF THE LAW.

RELIEF

- ^{NIV} **NEHEMIAH 8:10** NEHEMIAH SAID, "GO AND ENJOY CHOICE FOOD AND SWEET DRINKS, AND SEND SOME TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOTHING PREPARED. THIS DAY IS SACRED TO OUR LORD. DO NOT GRIEVE, FOR THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH."

THE RESULT

- ^{NIV} **NEHEMIAH 8:12** THEN ALL THE PEOPLE WENT AWAY TO EAT AND DRINK, TO SEND PORTIONS OF FOOD AND TO CELEBRATE WITH GREAT JOY, BECAUSE THEY NOW UNDERSTOOD THE WORDS THAT HAD BEEN MADE KNOWN TO THEM.
- ^{NIV} **1 PETER 1:8** THOUGH YOU HAVE NOT SEEN HIM, YOU LOVE HIM; AND EVEN THOUGH YOU DO NOT SEE HIM NOW, YOU BELIEVE IN HIM AND ARE FILLED WITH AN INEXPRESSIBLE AND GLORIOUS JOY,

THE PRINCIPLE

- WE RECEIVE THE JOY OF THE LORD THROUGH UNDERSTANDING AND BELIEVING HIS WORD

A large rectangular area with a light blue to dark blue gradient background. The corners of this area are decorated with several realistic water droplets of various sizes, some overlapping. The text is centered within this area.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

THE CONTEXT

- ^{NAS} **1 THESSALONIANS 1:5** FOR OUR GOSPEL DID NOT COME TO YOU IN WORD ONLY, BUT ALSO IN POWER AND IN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH FULL CONVICTION; JUST AS YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF MEN WE PROVED TO BE AMONG YOU FOR YOUR SAKE. ⁶ YOU ALSO BECAME IMITATORS OF US AND OF THE LORD, HAVING RECEIVED THE WORD IN MUCH TRIBULATION ...
 - PERSECUTION FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL

RELIEF

- ^{NAS} **1 THESSALONIANS 1:5** FOR OUR GOSPEL DID NOT COME TO YOU IN WORD ONLY, BUT ALSO IN POWER AND IN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH FULL CONVICTION... ⁶ YOU ... RECEIVED THE WORD ... WITH THE JOY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,

THE RESULT

- ^{NAS} **1 THESSALONIANS 1:2** WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD ALWAYS FOR ALL OF YOU, MAKING MENTION OF YOU IN OUR PRAYERS;
³ CONSTANTLY BEARING IN MIND YOUR WORK OF FAITH AND LABOR OF LOVE AND STEADFASTNESS OF HOPE IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR GOD AND FATHER ... ⁹ FOR THEY THEMSELVES REPORT ABOUT US WHAT KIND OF A RECEPTION WE HAD WITH YOU, AND HOW YOU TURNED TO GOD FROM IDOLS TO SERVE A LIVING AND TRUE GOD, ¹⁰ AND TO WAIT FOR HIS SON FROM HEAVEN, WHOM HE RAISED FROM THE DEAD, *THAT IS* JESUS, WHO DELIVERS US FROM THE WRATH TO COME.

THE PRINCIPLE

- WE RECEIVE THE JOY OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH UNDERSTANDING AND BELIEVING THE GOSPEL



THE JOY OF THE LORD ...

- IS NOT CONNECTED TO OUR CIRCUMSTANCES
- IS ROOTED IN UNDERSTANDING AND BELIEVING THE WORD OF GOD
- IS SUPERNATURAL IN ORIGIN
 - JOY OF THE LORD
 - JOY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



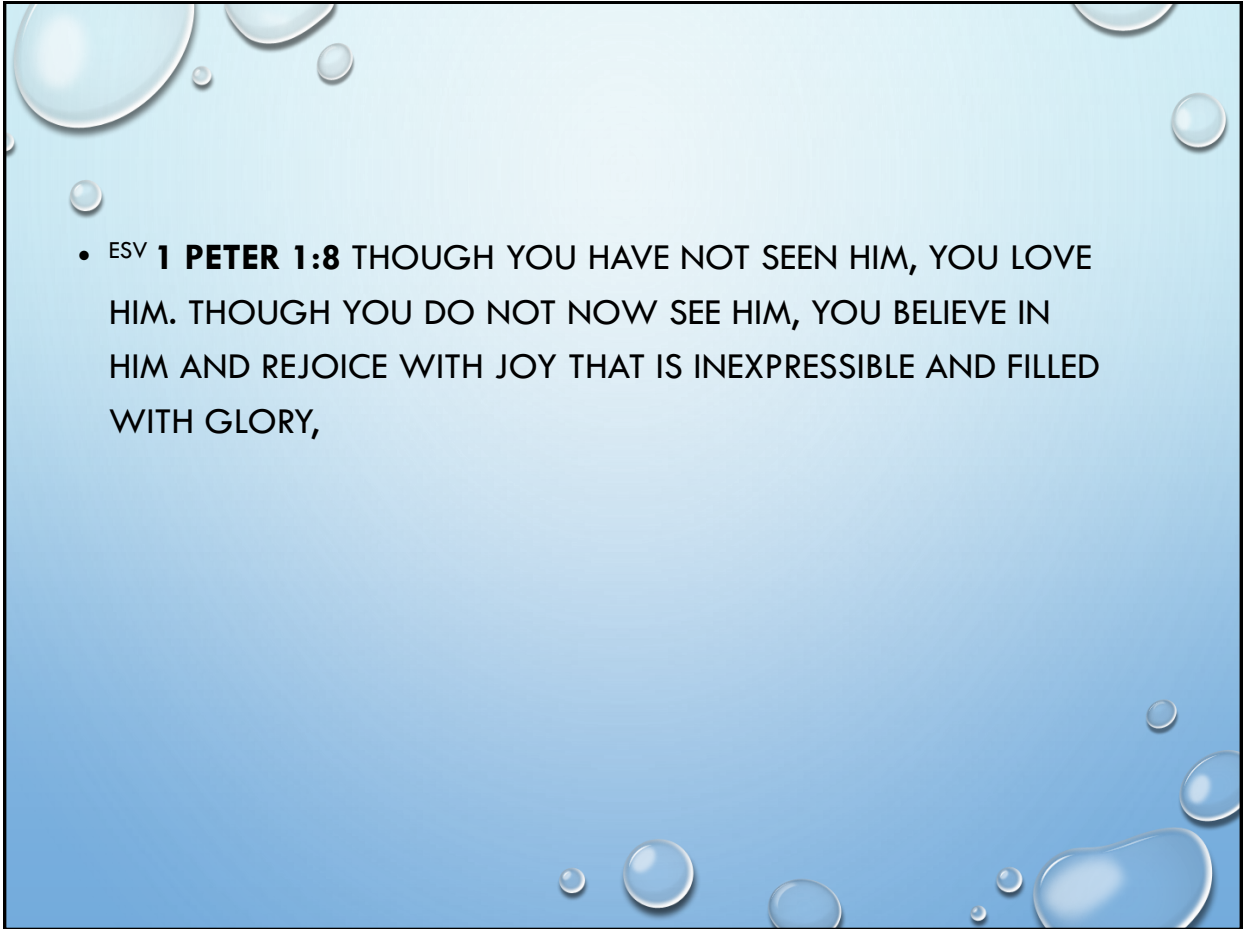
CONCLUSIONS

JOY OF THE LORD

- GOD DOES NOT JUST GIVE US JOY, HE GIVES US *HIS* JOY
- GOD BY HIS VERY NATURE IS JOYFUL
 - ^{NAS} **ZEPHANIAH 3:17** "THE LORD YOUR GOD IS IN YOUR MIDST, A VICTORIOUS WARRIOR. HE WILL EXULT OVER YOU WITH JOY, HE WILL BE QUIET IN HIS LOVE, HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH SHOUTS OF JOY.
 - ^{ESV} **JOHN 15:11** THESE THINGS I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU, THAT MY JOY MAY BE IN YOU, AND THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL.

INFUSED WITH JOY

- GOD INFUSES US WITH HIS DIVINE JOY THROUGH THE INDWELLING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
 - ^{NAS} **GALATIANS 5:22** BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE ...
 - ^{NAS} **ACTS 13:52** AND THE DISCIPLES WERE CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH JOY AND WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- 
- ^{ESV} **1 PETER 1:8** THOUGH YOU HAVE NOT SEEN HIM, YOU LOVE HIM. THOUGH YOU DO NOT NOW SEE HIM, YOU BELIEVE IN HIM AND REJOICE WITH JOY THAT IS INEXPRESSIBLE AND FILLED WITH GLORY,