

JESUS *the Light of* Christmas

A 4-WEEK BIBLE-READING PLAN

By Kenneth Copeland Ministries

WEEK 4

Jesus—The Light of Joy
This Christmas



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MONDAY DEVOTION

Don't Let Anyone Steal Your Joy

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Christmas is a time when we celebrate Jesus—the Light of Joy—coming to the earth. As the angel, Gabriel, announced the coming of our Lord Jesus, he said, “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people” (Luke 2:10).

Joy was a gift to us from God. Joy is not a fleeting emotion, but a fruit of the spirit living inside us every minute of every day. Not only that, but Nehemiah 8:10 says the joy of the Lord is our strength—and it's a superhero kind of strength.

That's why the devil has spent so much time trying to get us near the kryptonite of joy—anything that takes us away from love. That's because joy and love flow together.

If you think about it, you can easily see why. In this world, we're surrounded by selfish people. They're on the highways honking, gesturing and cutting rudely in front of us. They're in the workplace, saying harsh and unkind things. Sad to say, you'll even encounter them in church, ignoring you instead of giving you a smile and a warm hello, snapping at you because you didn't do something just right.

If you don't walk in love, someone will steal your joy before lunchtime because there is always someone out there who will be unkind. They don't necessarily do it on purpose (any more than you do!), but they're human. And, apart from the influence of God, human beings are naturally selfish.

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We can let people steal our joy when they say something ugly or wrong us in some way, by thinking about it and letting it eat at us until we become decreasingly joyful and increasingly upset.

Living a life of love, however, will change the way you respond to potentially offensive behavior. It will cause you to endure long and be patient and kind...not touchy or fretful or resentful.

Love enables you to overlook the offenses of others and let them go free. Love makes you think differently. When you choose love, the behavior of others can't steal your joy!

This Christmas, whenever you have an opportunity to be offended, change course and move over into love. Then, watch as your joy stays perfectly intact and your spiritual power soars!

TODAY'S READING:

[John 15:10-11](#)

[1 Corinthians 13:4-5](#)



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TUESDAY DEVOTION

Use the Force of Joy

So many people—believers or not—rightly associate Christmas with joy. It is a joyful time in the Body of Christ! The coming of our Savior is a time of great celebration. Yet when the focus of a holiday is on *feeling* joy, many realize it has gone missing in their lives.

But joy is so much more than a feeling. Joy is one of the most powerful spiritual forces in the world!

Nehemiah 8:10 says, "...the joy of the Lord is your strength." If you were to diagram that scripture and remove the phrase, "of the Lord," you would find that it's truly saying this: Joy is strength. The two are interchangeable.

That's what makes joy so crucial. You can't live a life of faith without being strong in the Lord—and when God wants to make you strong, joy is what He uses to do the job!

Joy is not just a state of mind. It is not a fleeting emotion. Joy is a very real force, and the devil doesn't have *anything* that can stand

up against it. Just as fear has to yield to faith, discouragement has to yield to joy.

That's why when the devil tries to put sickness, poverty or depression on you, the greatest response you can have is to laugh at his attempts. You have to stir up your faith with joy. It may feel forced at first, but when you keep at it, a supernatural joy will come bubbling up out of you until you are laughing under the influence of the Holy Spirit!

That's the kind of joy that says, "Devil, I'm not afraid of you. You have no power or authority in my life, so I'm just going to laugh at your attempts to steal, kill or destroy anything in my life!"

Since joy is one of the fruit of the spirit, you already have it residing within you. But you must develop it, confess it and live by it if you want to enjoy its power. Walk in it even when you don't feel joyful at all. Using the force of joy is a decision.

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Whatever circumstances you are facing this Christmas, you *can* be full of joy. You can be strong in the Lord. You can draw on the supply of the Holy Spirit within you and come out on top.

TODAY'S READING:

[Philippians 4:4-7](#)

[1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#)



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WEDNESDAY DEVOTION

Resist the Devil With Joy

Here's something you may have already noticed...

the devil doesn't take any time off at Christmas.

You're busy shopping and putting up the tree. He's busy plotting how to steal, kill and destroy. It's his MO.

He's hoping to catch you off guard while you're planning Christmas dinner, volunteering at the Christmas food bank, or hanging lights on the house.

Christmas is all about Jesus—the Light of Joy. It's a time for precious celebration of hope, love, peace and joy, which have all come to earth for mankind.

That's why the devil is making holiday plans of his own—to steal all those things from you, and he sends out his plan in the form of trials, challenges and frustrations.

But there is a secret power in enduring through trials.

James 1 tells us to count it all joy when we face life's struggles. That's right! We can *choose* to respond in JOY to hardships. It will take effort, no doubt, but with God's help, you can do it!

What happens when we count it all joy and endure with patience?

“God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12).

When you trust in God's covenant to provide what you need, you will be blessed! And, as Gloria Copeland has learned, “When you prove to Satan enough times that you will not compromise God's Word, he will stay out of your way.”

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Yes, you can learn how to respond when Satan attacks! You don't have to sit idly by waiting for something to change.

This Christmas, make a decision to stand in faith, resist the devil, give your attention to God's Word, and count it all joy when enduring trials. When you do, you will come out the victor and take all the spoils with you. What a perfect way to celebrate the Light of Joy this Christmas!

TODAY'S READING:

[James 1:2-4](#)



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THURSDAY DEVOTION

Your Joy Is Your Testimony

As Christians, at Christmastime we exclaim, “Joy to the world!” The question is, are we really living out that joy before the world?

If you pay attention to people on the roads and in stores, you won’t see evidence of much joy. Most of the time, you’ll see stress, unhappiness or indifference. Someone who has joy definitely stands out!

That’s why your joy is your testimony. Not fake, bubbling-over happiness—true, pure joy that comes from Jesus—the Light of Joy—living on the inside of you. The joy that can only come from knowing who you are in Christ, how much you are loved by Almighty God, and how He has already provided for your every need and desire.

When you think about those things, how can you *not* be joyful?!

Joy is a fruit of the spirit—evidence of God’s supernatural power living within you. It is a

natural attractor, too. People in the world are so desperate for love, peace, hope and joy, they’ll go to extremes to get it. But they can’t have true joy without Jesus.

Your joy is your testimony when you stay calm, kind and happy even during life’s challenges. It speaks volumes when you are the only one who never seems to grumble or complain. It shines God’s light into the world when you don’t let current events or unkind people ruin your day.

Your joy is more than just a blessing to you, it is a blessing to others. After watching you maintain your joy in all things, it won’t be long before people start asking you how you do it. That will be your blessed opportunity to share Jesus and provide others with the powerful Source of your joy to have for themselves.

This Christmas, be the one who is joyful even during a pandemic, an intense election cycle

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and any personal challenges you might face. Shine the Light of Joy into a hurting world. You'll find it will continue to increase your own joy, too.

TODAY'S READING:

[Psalm 16:11](#)

[1 Peter 3:15](#)



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FRIDAY DEVOTION

Add More Joy to Your Life

At Christmastime, a long to-do list, the demands of events and gatherings, and the awareness of time ticking away can turn the focus from the joy of the season to stress and frustration.

That's when it's important to remember some of Paul's final words of encouragement: "Always be joyful" (1 Thessalonians 5:16).

Notice he phrases it here as a choice.

Some people think they can only be joyful if everything in their lives is just so. But Paul says, not so!

Would others use the word *joyful* to describe you? Would you use it to describe yourself? If not, it's time to give your day a shot of joy. Here are five ways to do it.

1. Add More Joy by Remembering Your Inheritance

You have a BIG inheritance filled with all

kinds of wonderful blessings (Romans 8:17). So everything you need for your day is available to you—peace, health, healing, prosperity and success in every area of your life. God wants you to have it. That's something to be joyful about!

2. Add More Joy by Focusing on God

When you "seek the Kingdom of God" and His way of doing things first (Matthew 6:33) and "set your mind on things above" (Colossians 3:2, *NKJV*), the concerns of this world won't consume your mind. When you focus on God—His goodness, grace, mercy and love for you, you'll tap into great joy!

3. Add More Joy by Resisting Conflict

Instead of giving in to conflict this Christmas by yelling at that bad driver who cut you off on the way to work,

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joining in on the water cooler gossip about a difficult co-worker, or fuming over an inconsiderate neighbor, choose to be a peacemaker (Matthew 5:9). Think of the freedom and joy you'll have by refusing to get wrapped up in strife!

4. **Add More Joy by Remaining Thankful**

It's amazing how joyful you feel when you're thankful. This week, start a 30-day gratitude journal and watch your joy jump sky-high!

Add More Joy by Caring for Your Body

The Word refers to your body as the “temple of the Holy Spirit.” That means you need proper sleep (7-9 hours), nutrition (limit processed food, sodas and caffeine) and exercise (30 minutes, five days a week, for example)—even during the busy Christmas season! All of these things affect your mood and a lack of any of them can result in feelings of discouragement and irritability.

Make adding joy to your life part of your Christmas plans this year. What a wonderful way to celebrate the Light of Joy—our King Jesus!

TODAY'S READING:

[Psalm 119:111](#)

[Luke 2:10](#)

