

Joyful Mother

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Psalm 113:9.
- B. The occasion of having a baby is supposed to be joyous. (Luke 1:14, 46-49)
- C. The challenges of parenting.

II. Where we cannot find joy.

- A. In possessions.
- B. In circumstances because they change.

III. Real sources of joy.

- A. God himself. (Psalm 104:34; 43:4; Philippians 4:4; Luke 1:47)
- B. Our salvation: we know we are forgiven. (Isaiah 12:2)
- C. Realizing God's presence. (Deuteronomy 33; Psalm 125:2)
- D. Being filled with God's Spirit. (Acts 13:52; Galatians 5:22)
- E. Believing God. (1 Peter 1:8)

IV. Secrets to making the sources of joy part of our lives.

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A. Source 1: God himself.

1. Focus on God and not on circumstances. (Habakkuk 3:17-18; 2 Corinthians 6:10)
2. Delight in God. (Psalm 37:4)
3. Meditate on God.
4. Spend much time talking to God.
5. Seek God.
6. Give his Word priority. (Jeremiah 15:16; John 15:11)

B. Source 2: our salvation.

1. Do not harbor sin. (Psalm 32:1-5)

2. Have a deep concern for those who do not know God.

C. Source 3: realizing God's presence.

1. Sing to God.

2. Practice God's presence.

D. Source 4: being filled with the Spirit.

1. Serve him gladly. (Psalm 100:2)

2. Be available to God and be controlled by him.

E. Source 5: believing God.

1. Choose to be joyful by an act of the will. (Psalm 118:24; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)

2. Have no confidence in the flesh. (Nehemiah 8:10; Psalm 118:14; 2 Corinthians 12:10)

3. Enduring hardships. (James 1:2-4; Colossians 1:11; Psalm 16:5-11)

Application questions:

1. What false sources of joy do you find yourself pursuing?

2. Which source of joy would you most like to develop?

3. What is your plan for developing that source of joy? Explain.
