

**The Power of Joy**

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Mini-book

*(Sample Excerpt)*

CALETA BURKE

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Most of us know that joy is a part of the fruit of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5. However, we do not fully understand the power that joy brings to us.

### **Galatians 5:22-23**

*22. But the fruit of the Spirit is love,  
joy, peace, longsuffering,  
gentleness, goodness, faith,*

*23. Meekness, temperance: against  
such there is no law.*

When we first become born-again, we are normally filled with great joy and enthusiasm. But as time passes, most Christians become cold. Many times, circumstances and situations try to steal our joy. We often find ourselves going like a yoyo, up one day and down the next. It is a strategy of Satan to gradually draw

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us away from the true joy that comes from God.

This little book is an attempt to remind us of the tremendous power and strength that we derive from joy. The book of Nehemiah reminds us that the joy of the LORD is our strength.

### **Nehemiah 8:10**

*Then [Ezra] told them, Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet drink, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And be not grieved and depressed, for the joy of the Lord is your strength and stronghold*

You might have heard different interpretations of this scripture. Some people interpret it to mean

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that when we have the joy of the LORD in us, then we will be strong. Others say it means that the LORD is happy when we are strong. Either way, the fact is that “joy” and “strength” go together. They are twins.

Sadness is an opposite of joy. Sadness brings sorrow and tears while joy brings gladness, laughter, singing and rejoicing. This is illustrated in Psalm 126.

### **Psalm 126:1-6**

- 1. When the Lord brought back the captives [who returned] to Zion, we were like those who dream [it seemed so unreal].*
- 2. Then were our mouths filled with laughter, and our tongues with singing. Then they said*

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*among the nations, The Lord has done great things for them.*

3. *The Lord has done great things for us! We are glad!*
4. *Turn to freedom our captivity and restore our fortunes, O Lord, as the streams in the South (the Negeb) [are restored by the torrents]*
5. *They who sow in tears shall reap in joy and singing.*
6. *He who goes forth bearing seed and weeping [at needing his precious supply of grain for sowing] shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

The word “sheaf” or “sheaves” represents anything that is bound. Verses 5 and 6 of the above scripture illustrate a farmer who planted seed in the middle of

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hardship and tears. Then, at the time of harvest, the farmer comes rejoicing, with his bundle, pile or bunch of harvest.

We may face tough times in our lives and deal with certain situations in tears. Those may be times that Satan tries to steal our joy. But in the end, if we persist and continue to trust the LORD, we shall come rejoicing, bringing in our sheaves.

We sometimes underestimate the value of salvation. Salvation is a total package that contains everything we need in life. But, it is like a deep well. We need to draw water from that deep well.

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### **Isaiah 12:1-3**

1. *AND IN that day you will say, I will give thanks to You, O Lord; for though You were angry with me, Your anger has turned away, and You comfort me.*
2. *Behold, God, my salvation! I will trust and not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and song; yes, He has become my salvation.*
3. *Therefore with joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation*

The LORD is our strength and our song. He is our joy! With joy, we can draw from the deep well of every good and perfect gift that God has provided for us. That is why Satan tries to steal our joy.

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It is our job individually to stir up the gift of God on the inside of us. We should stir up the joy inside us. We should not wait for the pastor to inspire us. We should not expect our husbands or wives to stir us up. We are God's sanctuary. He dwells in us. We should turn inward toward God and draw from the well.

Often, we lose our joy because we live under condemnation. The bible says there is no condemnation for those who live in Christ Jesus.

### **Romans 8:1**

*THEREFORE, [there is] now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live [and] walk not after the dictates*

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*of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit.*

So long as we keep ourselves in Christ Jesus, there is no condemnation for us. We bring ourselves under condemnation when we move away from Christ Jesus. We walk after the dictates of the flesh when we attempt to carry the weight of the world on our shoulders.

We read in Psalm 126 that when God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, they said they were like those who dream. After living in bondage and harsh task-masters for about four hundred years, it was like a dream for them to be finally free.

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If we do not remain in Christ, then we are moving ourselves into bondage under Satan who is a harsh task-master. Instead of turning to God, we find ourselves running to the banks and the world's financial systems when we get in financial trouble.

We need to remember that the banks are not looking out for our interest. The credit card companies and the banks exist primarily for their own interest. They use our money to generate profit for themselves. Have you ever thought about how little interest the bank pays you when you deposit your money? Compare that with how much interest they charge you when you borrow money from them.

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I am not attempting to condemn you or discourage you. If you find yourself going back to Egypt, I want to encourage you to wake up and return to God. One of the best ways to do this is to begin to recognize and activate the power of joy that is dormant within you. Begin to praise the LORD and rejoice.

Of course, the world will think you are crazy if you start rejoicing in the LORD. They might think you are acting like David who found himself in the middle of the enemy's camp and started behaving like a crazy person. It is not a problem if the world thinks you are crazy. They do not know