

***Strengthened By Joy***

Nehemiah 8:1-12

July 31, 2022

***Introduction:*** What do you think of when you hear the word Joy? How can Joy become characteristic of our life? What is the difference between happiness and joy? What is the source of the Christian's joy? Who is the source of the Christian's joy? The Bible says God gives us joy and peace. It tells us that real joy comes from God and is ours forever. The joy that is found in God's presence isn't static; it transforms and regenerates us. At the heart of joy is an unshakable awareness that we possess good from God. Joy is part of God's kingdom.

***Prayer:*** Father, help us to understand the words of Nehemiah concerning receiving strength from the Joy of the Lord. Amen.

***Read:*** Nehemiah 8:1-12

***Review:*** What did you learn about joy last week as a defense against despair?

***Discussion:***

1. What prompted "all the people" to tell Ezra to read the Book of the Law of Moses?
2. What did Ezra do before he began to read (verse 6); why was this important? What was the response of the people?
3. In addition to the reading of the Book of the Law, what else was done (Levites)?
4. What was the impact on the people by the words of the Book being read? Do we see this impact today?
5. What were Nehemiah's last instructions to the people? Why could the people celebrate? Explain.

***Application:*** This week claim strength in confession and joy.

***Prayer:*** Father, we long to find strength in joy, as Nehemiah teaches so dearly. Amen