

the Gift

THE LIGHT HAS COME

Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

Luke 2:10

The background of the image is a deep, dark blue night sky filled with numerous small, bright white stars. The sky is divided into several diagonal bands of slightly different shades of blue, creating a sense of depth and movement. At the bottom of the image, there is a dark silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees, which appears to be looking up at the starry sky.

Joy \neq Happiness

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Joy > Happiness

Premises

1) Joy > Happiness

Premises

- 1) Joy > Happiness
- 2) Giving > Receiving



“These things I have spoken to you, that My
joy may remain in you, and that your joy
may be full.

John 15:11

Premises

- 1) Joy > Happiness
- 2) Giving > Receiving
- 3) Joy of the Lord > Our joy

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

John 15:12-13

Premises

- 1) Joy > Happiness
- 2) Giving > Receiving
- 3) Joy of the Lord > Our joy
- 4) God loves and provides for
His children

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher
of our faith, who for the joy that was set
before Him endured the cross, despising the
shame, and has sat down at the right hand
of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

Premises

- 1) Joy > Happiness
- 2) Giving > Receiving
- 3) Joy of the Lord > Our joy
- 4) God loves and provides for His children
- 5) Eternal perspective

Discussion

- 1) What is keeping me from fully experiencing the joy of the Lord?

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

"You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:8-9

Layers of our Lives

- Individual
- Family
- Life Group
- Community Group
- Oak Ridge
- Global Church

Work, Community and World

Discussion

2) How can I/we more fully experience the joy of the Lord?

Consider these layers:

- Individual
- Family
- Life Group
- Community Group
- Oak Ridge
- Global Church

Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

Luke 2:10

Now when they had seen Him, they made
widely known the saying which was told
them concerning this Child.

Luke 2:17

