

First Friends Church
“The Gift of Presence: JOY”
December 6, 2009

INTRO: The Gift of Presence means *God is WITH You!*
Immanuel – God is WITH you! Isaiah 7:14 / Matt. 1:23

Message: The GIFT of God’s PRESENCE is *JOY!*

Biblical JOY: A gift of the Holy Spirit, experienced through the emotions of gladness, well-being, cheer, happiness, etc.

- Evidence (fruit) of the Holy Spirit’s presence and does NOT depend on external circumstances.

Gal. 5:22 “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*”

Jn. 15:11 “*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*”

1 Peter 1:8 “*Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.*”

“JOY-Robber” is FEAR! Isaiah 9:1-7

- * *We lose our fear when God comes near.*

God’s Christmas Presence releases JOY!

- * Angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah: This gift from God (a son) will bring you, and others, great joy. Luke 1:14
- * “*I stand in the presence of God*” Luke 1:19 (Gabriel)
- * Angel Gabriel to Mary, “*The Lord is WITH you.*” 1:28
- * Mary troubled...Angel “*Do not be afraid.*” 1:30

- * Mary visits Elizabeth, the Holy Spirit moves, and the baby in her womb leaps for JOY – 1:44

- * Mary sings, “*My soul rejoices in God my Savior...*” 1:47

- * Angels to shepherds, “*Do not be afraid...I bring you good news of great joy for all people...a Savior has been born; he is Christ the Lord.*” 2:10

- * Wise men saw the star over Bethlehem and were filled with great joy. Mt. 2:10

So REJOICE - “*joice and rejoice*”... **Phil. 4:4**

“*Rejoice IN THE LORD; again I say REJOICE!*”

Neh. 8:10 “*The joy of the Lord is your strength.*”

John 16:24 “*Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.*”

Message: The GIFT of God’s PRESENCE brings *JOY!*

Response: SO “JOICE” and REJOICE!

Make room in your heart for Jesus’ JOY?

Ask Jesus to remove you fear so there’s room for joy.