

EXPRESS YOUR JOY – IT'S OK

JEHOSHAPHAT

2 CHRONICLES 20:27

Day 20

After the victory over those three armies marching against Judah, King Jehoshaphat & his armies returned to Jerusalem with an attitude of joy. They used harps, lyres, & trumpets. It sounded like their expression of joy was somewhat obvious (maybe even noisy).

No, I don't think using a trumpet to express joy throughout your day would be very appropriate; it would be too noisy. However, how can you make your joy obvious? Haven't you ever met a total stranger in a place of business, and suspected that person to be a believer? Yes, you have. I'll bet many of your hunches were right.

As believers, we have a joy inside us; we are not always happy but we always have the joy. What gives us joy? List the obvious things: I am glad to be alive today. I am so proud of my children as they live lives of integrity. I have hope in my soul. That tree growing outside my office window is perfectly made by a perfect Creator. I am grateful that the sun is exactly where it is in the universe. I am content that my day is going just the way that God intended it to go. I know that whoever I meet today is supposed to enter my life today. No matter how strange my schedule becomes today, it is good for God's purpose.

Most of the stuff that comes out of our mouths is in the form of complaints – negative, pessimistic comments. What a shock for someone to hear positive, contented words coming from you. People want joy & happiness in themselves & in the world around them. However, they have about given up. Be alerted that when you express joy & hope in your words or demeanor, they might scoff or reject you. Give them time; their systems are not used to it.

Remember, joy starts in you long before it gets to your lips. People will often see it before you have said a thing. Enjoy God in your personal life & God will enable you to enjoy life in front of others.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Does your life express joy? Explain how you do it, or what improvements you need to make.
2. What impact will a life that radiates joy have on someone who watches you month after month?

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

What do you need to say to God as you face the topic being discussed in this devotional? Write out your prayer word for word just as if you were praying. Use separate lined paper to record your prayer. Make sure you actually pray this prayer to the Lord. Be honest & be personal. After all, you mean business with God here. You want this area of your life either fixed, strengthened, added, or removed.