

# INFLUENCED FOR JOY

## The Stable Influence – Advent 3

### December 15, 2013

1 Thessalonians 5:16 (NLT) *“Always be joyful.”*

#### What Keeps You From Seeking Joy As A Possibility?

1. The **BAD** that shouldn't happen.
2. The **GOOD** that doesn't happen.

God came to this often-ugly world and, in Jesus Christ, He told us joy can even happen here.

Because Jesus came, you can **CHOOSE** to be a joyful person.

#### HOW DO YOU CHOOSE JOY?

1. Choose to **HEAR** the good news.

**Luke 2:10 (NIV)** *“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.’ ”*

**Romans 1:16 (TLB)** *“For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is God's powerful method of bringing all who believe it to heaven. This message was preached first to the Jews alone, but now everyone is invited to come to God in this same way.”*

**James 1:2-3 (NLT)** *“Dear brothers and sisters when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup>For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.”*

**Joy is applying God's truth and power to the imperfect circumstances of this imperfect world.**

2. Choose to **DO** what God says.

**Luke 2:15 (NLT)** *“When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, ‘Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’ ”*

**Psalm 19:8 (NLT)** *“The commandments of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are clear, giving insight for living.”*

**Psalm 97:11 (NLT)** *“Light shines on the godly and joy on those whose hearts are right.”*

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

**When you pray a prayer, the real joy comes when you see that prayer being answered.**

3. Choose to **TELL** someone else.

**Luke 2:17 (NIV)** *“When they had seen Him (Jesus), they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child.”*

**Psalm 107:22b (NCV)** *“With joy they should tell what He has done.”*

### THE 111 COMMITMENT

Each day this week...

- ✓ Pray for **ONE** person.
- ✓ Pray for **ONE** minute.
- ✓ Pray at **ONE** o'clock.

**Luke 15:7 (NCV)** *“I tell you there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes his heart and life, than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to change.”*

**Psalm 126:5 (NIV)** *“Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.”*

**Philippians 4:4 (NCV)** *“Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say it again, be full of joy.”*

**At Christmas, Jesus is the stable influence that brings joy to your life.**