

CONTAGIOUS JOY - BIBLE STUDY #10

“Women of Faith Ministry Authors (10)

“Joy is my Strength”



Times: Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. to 12:00

Address: 346 Private Road 4703-Castroville, Tx. 78009 – Directions from 90 and Bill Millers. Go 471 North about 1.5 miles to PR4703 Creekside Subdivision. Turn into subdivision and follow road to the end (cul-de-sac) White Dodge pickup in driveway. WELCOME!

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You don’t even have to purchase a book and don’t worry if you miss some of the lessons, come on when you are able. If you want you can purchase the “E-BOOK” for only \$1.99 at Christianbook.com and or purchase the small book for only \$5.00. The study is very simple and life applicable for spiritual growth, encouragement, joy, and knowledge. We are excited about making new friends and have great fellowship!

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“ Joy Is My Strength”



Contagious Joy Bible Study (10)

(Copied from our Contagious Study Book in Chapter Ten)

Study Questions Chapter Ten

Joy is just one of the many gifts that God gives to His people. God gives us His love, and that love humbles us. God gives us faith, and faith makes us confident. God gives us His peace, and that peace makes us steady. God gives us His hope, and that hope makes us expectant. And God gives us His joy, and that joy makes us... strong? Of all the words we could use to describe the joy of the Lord, would strong be at the top of your list?

Consider this. We can know that God loves us. We can be certain of God's promises. We can trust God for peace in every situation. We can make lists of the historical facts that support our faith. We can begin each day wondering if this could be the day our hope is fulfilled. But if we do not have joy in all these truths, they seem stale, distant, even dull. All the academic pursuit of the facts of Scripture won't change a life with the dynamic power that joy has. Joy is the vibrancy, the brightness, the effervescent quality that makes our faith contagious!



Chapter Ten Study Questions - #10



1. As believers, we already know what God is the source of our inner strength. He's even called by that name-my Strength-in the Scriptures. Look up **Psalms 59:17** and write down what it says. Look up Isaiah 49:5 and write down what it says.
2. Words of praise and thanksgiving have been lifted up for centuries because of the strength the Lord gives to those who look to Him. Match up the verses in the book that pertains to the strength God provides.
3. We're taught from the time that we are little that the Lord lends us His strength. "We are weak, but He is strong." What does Paul tell us about God's strength in **2 Corinthians 12:9**?
4. IT doesn't sound odd to say that God is our strength. But what subtle twist does **Nehemiah 8:10** give to this notion?

Digging Deeper: Look up these verses about having the kind of Joy that is transforming, that John talked about.

Trinkets To Treasure: Joy makes everything it's paired with better! Take joy in love! Rejoice in hope! Find joy in God's peace. Live out your faith with joy. Though joy may not seem a great source of strength, its lifting effect makes us stronger. To celebrate joy's transforming power, we'll choose a balloon as our trinket. Balloons lift our hearts and make us smile. They transform anything ordinary into a celebration!

Summarized before and after verses for #10

BFC BEFORE AND AFTER VERSE FOR OUR BIBLE STUDY #10

Psalms 59:17(1-18)- Saul had sent men to watch David's house in order to kill him.

¹Deliver me from my enemies, O God; be my fortress against those who are attacking me.²Deliver me from evildoers and save me from those who are after my blood.³See how they lie in wait for me! Fierce men conspire against me for no offense or sin of mine, LORD.⁴I have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack me. Arise to help me; look on my plight!⁵You, LORD God Almighty, you who are the God of Israel, rouse yourself to punish all the nations; show no mercy to wicked traitors.^[c]

⁶They return at evening, snarling like dogs, and prowl about the city.⁷See what they spew from their mouths— the words from their lips are sharp as swords, and they think, "Who can hear us?"⁸But you laugh at them, LORD; you scoff at all those nations.

⁹You are my strength, I watch for you; you, God, are my fortress,¹⁰ my God on whom I can rely. God will go before me and will let me gloat over those who slander me.¹¹But do not kill them, Lord our shield,^[d] or my people will forget.

In your might uproot them and bring them down.¹²For the sins of their mouths, for the words of their lips, let them be caught in their pride. For the curses and lies they utter,¹³ consume them in your wrath, consume them till they are no more. Then it will be known to the ends of the earth that God rules over Jacob.

¹⁴They return at evening, snarling like dogs, and prowl about the city.

¹⁵They wander about for food and howl if not satisfied.¹⁶But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; or you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.

¹⁷You are my strength, I sing praise to you; you, God, are my fortress, my God on whom I can rely.

2 Corinthians 12:9(1-10)- I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. ³And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— ⁴was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. ⁵I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses. ⁶Even if I should choose to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will think more of me than is warranted by what I do or say, ⁷or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Nehemiah 8:10(1-11)- all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.

²So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

⁴Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiiah, Uriah, Hilkiyah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishaiah, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.

⁵Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. ⁸They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear^[a] and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

⁹Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

¹⁰Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.” ¹¹The Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.”

Psalms 21:1(1-2)- For the director of music. A psalm of David.

¹The king rejoices in your strength, LORD. How great is his joy in the victories you give!²You have granted him his heart’s desire and have not withheld the request of his lips.^[b]

John 15:11(1-12)- The Vine and the Branches

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

THE NEXT TWO RED VERSE BELONG TO QUESTION #7

Isaiah 9:3 (1-4)- Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.⁴For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

Isaiah 29:19(1-20)- Woe to David’s City

29 Woe to you, Ariel, Ariel, the city where David settled! Add year to year and let your cycle of festivals go on.²Yet I will besiege Ariel; she will mourn and lament, she will be to me like an altar hearth.^[a]

³I will encamp against you on all sides; I will encircle you with towers and set up my siege works against you.⁴Brought low, you will speak from the ground; your speech will mumble out of the dust. Your voice will come ghostlike from the earth; out of the dust your speech will whisper.

⁵But your many enemies will become like fine dust, the ruthless hordes like blown chaff. Suddenly, in an instant,⁶ the LORD Almighty will come with thunder and earthquake and great noise, with windstorm and tempest and flames of a devouring fire.⁷Then the hordes of all the nations that fight against Ariel, that attack her and her fortress and besiege her, will be as it is with a dream, with a vision in the night—

⁸as when a hungry person dreams of eating, but awakens hungry still; as when a thirsty person dreams of drinking, but awakens faint and thirsty

still. So will it be with the hordes of all the nations that fight against Mount Zion.⁹ Be stunned and amazed, blind yourselves and be sightless; be drunk, but not from wine, stagger, but not from beer.¹⁰ The LORD has brought over you a deep sleep: He has sealed your eyes (the prophets); he has covered your heads (the seers).

¹¹For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say, "Read this, please," they will answer, "I can't; it is sealed." ¹²Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, "Read this, please," they will answer, "I don't know how to read."

¹³The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught."¹⁴ Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish."¹⁵ Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, "Who sees us? Who will know?"¹⁶ You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, "You did not make me"? Can the pot say to the potter, "You know nothing"?¹⁷ In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest?¹⁸ In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

¹⁹Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.²⁰ The ruthless will vanish, the mockers will disappear, and all who have an eye for evil will be cut down—

John 17:13(1-14)- Jesus Prays to Be Glorified

17 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

⁶"I have revealed you^[a] to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of^[b] your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by^[c] that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.

Psalms 16:11(1-12)- Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.²I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing."

³I say of the holy people who are in the land, "They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight."⁴Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips.⁵LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.

⁶The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.⁷I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.⁸I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.⁹Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,¹⁰because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay.

¹¹You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.