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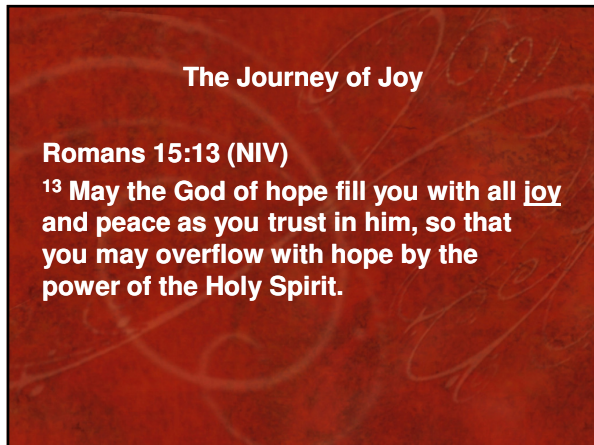
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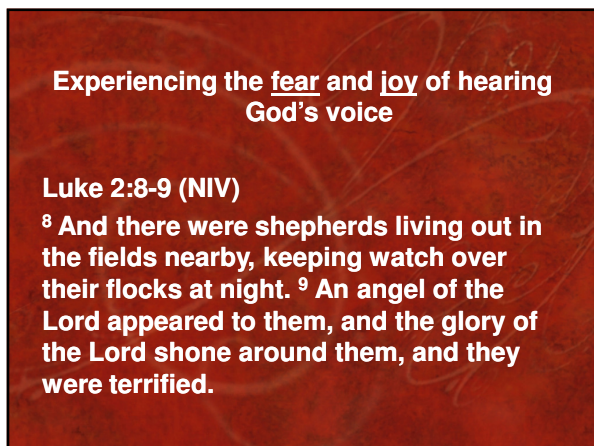
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Experiencing the fear and joy of hearing God's voice

Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

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Discovering the joy of pursuing God

Luke 2:15-16 (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."  
<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

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Discovering the joy of pursuing God

Matthew 2:1-3 (NIV)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed ...

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**Discovering the joy of pursuing God**

**Matthew 2:1-3 (NIV)**

**After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed ...**

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**Focusing on the joy set before you**

**"We are chosen for joy. However hard the Christian way, it is both in the traveling and in the goal, the way of joy. There is always a joy in doing the right thing."**

**William Barclay**

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**Focusing on the joy set before you**

**Philippians 2:2-5 (NIV)**

**... make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:**

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Focusing on the joy set before you

**John 15:10-11 (NIV)**  
<sup>10</sup> If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

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Focusing on the joy set before you

**James 1:2-4 (NLT)**  
<sup>2</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. <sup>3</sup> For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.

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Focusing on the joy set before you

**Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)**  
<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

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**Focusing on the joy set before you**

**Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)**  
**<sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

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**Focusing on the joy set before you**

**“Most of us find it very difficult to want Heaven at all. One reason for this difficulty is that we have not been trained: our whole education tends to fix our minds on this world.”**

**C.S. Lewis**

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