

**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

**Third Sunday of Advent ~ One Lord, One Faith, One Gift**

*"Joy is a gift we look for, long for, and easily evades us. Christmas is God's reminder that joy is possible, but it takes action on our part, focus on our part, in response to God's action towards us."*



When was the last time you experienced joy? Why? How long did it last?

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Read *John 3:16,17*. Joy Requires \_\_\_\_\_. Do I consider joy to be an active or passive component of my faith? How have I seen that in my life?

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How many ways can you list that God acted first in scripture? When was the last time you can remember that God acted first in your life?

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Read *Luke 2:10*. What is my reaction to Jesus' birth?

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Joy Requires \_\_\_\_\_. Read *John 1:1-14*. How has my focus been recently? Where is it this Christmas season?

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Read *Micah 5:2*. How does Micah's prophecy help me in my focus this season? Everyday?

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What can I eliminate from my schedule this season to help me focus on Jesus?

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Joy Receives \_\_\_\_\_.

Read *John 1:12-14* again. To what identity do I cling? In what ways does my identity focus determine my destiny determination?

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Take a few moments and focus on eternity. How important is it to you? To others around you? How often do you consider eternity in your considerations of Christmas?

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Read *Matthew 25:31*. Jesus has some stark words about eternity. How do his words influence, if at all, my view of Christmas?

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If joy is found in my reaction to God's action, what is my reaction to Jesus' words?

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With whom would God have me share the joy of Jesus with this season?

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What will my prayer be this week?

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