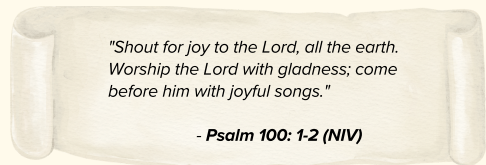


Q:

What Does the Word "Joy" Mean in the Bible?

Today we think of JOY as an other-worldly experience of over-flowing bliss.

So, when I read the word "joy" in the Bible, I would become unsettled. As if I were missing something vital — or simply incapable of it.



But I had joy all wrong.

I had been reading the word 'joy' for years without understanding what it meant to the people who wrote it.

Biblical authors did not consider joy an elevated emotional state like glee or giddiness, or an actual physical response such as singing, dancing, and shouting.

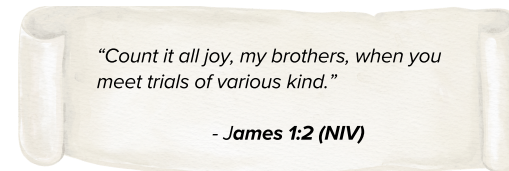
To the ancient Israelite, joy was closely associated with the concept of SHALOM - a desire to witness a person prosper across every dimension of life.

NOTE ON LANGUAGE: The Hebrew word for JOY was "SIMCHA" (pronounced "seem-ka") defined as simply "a state of rest".

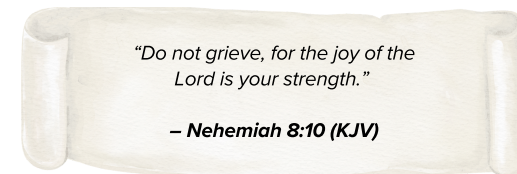
Joy meant a sense of deep contentment - an interior calm in which desires are controlled and the struggles of life somehow quieted. In a state of joy, one is said to experience a sense of internal order.

A hope that thrives despite circumstances.

With joy came an abundance of confidence knowing God was always with you.



And more importantly, you were turned toward God. And could never consider turning away again.



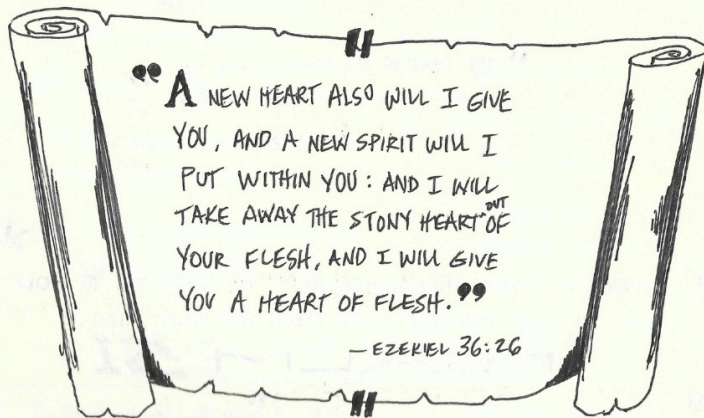
This is the kind of joy I had hoped for, only better.

THE GOAL OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS IS THE...

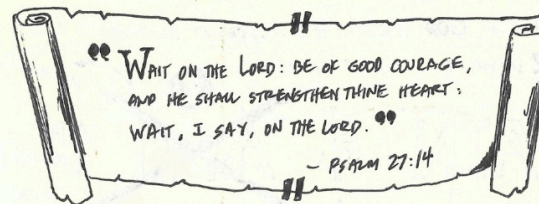
RESTORATION

of JOY

- def: JOY - the passion or excitement by the acquisition or expectation of good.
- a delight of the mind.
 - a glorious and triumphant state.



SOMETIMES THE BIBLE STORY IS TOO OVERWHELMINGLY BEAUTIFUL TO FULLY COMPREHEND. LET IT BE.



What does this mean? → WAIT on the Lord.

- THIS IS NOT AN IDLE AND PASSIVE POSTURE, BUT AN ACTIVE, EXPECTANT, HOPEFUL ENGAGEMENT. PATIENTLY SEEKING.

to WAIT = [def: QAVAH - [HEBREW] a rope or cord]

- BINDING TOGETHER - being tied or bound to something
 - ENTWINING WITH GOD - so closely connected that we move in harmony with GOD, waiting for his direction
 - TENSION AND STRENGTH - an active state of readiness - taught - not slack
- TRUST IN GOD'S TIMING, GOD'S PURPOSE.
 - PREPARE THROUGH SCRIPTURE, PRAYER, PATIENCE.
 - MANY DID NOT WAIT ON THE LORD BUT CHOSE TO ACT OF THEIR OWN WILL, AT THE TIME OF THEIR CHOOSING, USING THEIR OWN STRENGTH, WISDOM, AND INTELLIGENCE. IT DID NOT END WELL.