

The Joy of the Lord is My Strength
The Dog Days of Summer
August 10, 2025

- Theme: One of the greatest SKILLS a Christian can learn is how to have the joy of the Lord in the middle of our HARDEST days.
- What is the “Joy of the Lord”?
 - ✓ It’s not temporary, CIRCUMSTANTIAL joy the world offers
 - Nehemiah 8:10 NIV
 - ✓ The Lord’s joy we can KEEP, regardless of circumstances because it’s based on CHRIST. - Psalm 28:7
- Three theological truths
 1. When life seems to fall apart, GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL.
 - Job 42:1-2 NLT
 - Even when we lack UNDERSTANDING
 2. When life seems hopeless, GOD WILL WORK IT OUT. - Romans 8:28
 - God is ALWAYS at work
 3. When we can’t see God in our situation, HE IS STILL WORTHY OF PRAISE.
 - Being joyful is a CHOICE
- How to have joy on bad days:
 1. Stop dwelling on WHAT HAPPENED - Philippians 1:12
 - Redirect our THOUGHTS - Acts 16:25
 2. Look for new OPPORTUNITIES - Philippians 1:13-14 NLT
 - Prison guards - Acts 16:25, 30-31, 34
 3. Adopt an ETERNAL perspective - Philippians 1:15, 18 NLT
 - Choose/focus on what MATTERS MOST - Philippians 1:21