

The Joy of the Lord Is your Strength

**The enemies conspired, fought against, &
hindered, but God built the wall!**

Ezra read the OT
law to the
people.

- Neh 8:5 And **Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people;** (for he was above all the people;) and **when he opened it, all the people stood up:**
- Neh 8:6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and **they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD** with *their* faces to the ground.

How did it affect
the people?

Neh 8:9 And Nehemiah, which *is* the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day *is* holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. **For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law.**

It was THEN that
Ezra told them

...

Neh 8:10b

for *this* day is holy unto our Lord:
neither be ye sorry; **for the joy
of the LORD is your strength.**

I. The purpose
of the Joy of the
Lord

- **The etymology = to be glad**
- Happiness = a temporary emotion based upon good feelings
- **Joy = to be glad, i.e. upbeat, even in dark foreboding circumstances**
- **Strength = a fortified place**

The source of
this joy – of the
Lord

- It comes through relationship with the LORD.

LORD = Jehovah, Self-
Existent One

- It often comes in the midst of adversity.

II. The Place of the Joy of the Lord

- **Where do you find the joy of the Lord?**
- It is found in **the Savior.**
- It is found in **the Scriptures.**
- It is found in **supplication.**
- It is found in **suffering.**

III. The Power of the Joy in the Lord

- Neh. 8:10 For *this* day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; **for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**
- The joy of the Lord is God's power to overcome obstacles.

Obstacles that the
joy of the Lord
overcomes!

- 2Co 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in **weakness**. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
- 2Co 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in **infirmities**, in **reproaches**, in **necessities**, in **persecutions**, in **distresses** for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.