

# A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT

## *2008 Advent Season*

### "Sharing the Christmas Light of Joy"

Joy Versus Happiness: There is a difference!

Happiness: Based on HAPPENSTANCE; Fueled by EMOTIONS

Joy: Based on UNDERSTANDING; Fueled by BELIEF

*"You are the light of the world..."* Matthew 5:14

### How's Your Light Shining?

#### Your Light Can Be Dimmed When:

1. Your joy is DISTORTED by the world  
*"Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."* Romans 12:2 (Msg)
2. Your joy is DETERMINED by your circumstances  
*"...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances."* Philippians 4:11 (NIV)  
  
*"When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul."* Psalm 94:19 (NIV)
3. Your joy is DESTROYED by the enemy  
*"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy..."* John 10:10 (NLT)  
  
*"Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."* Psalm 51:12 (NIV)

### THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT OF JOY SHINES BRIGHTEST WHEN:

#### **J**ESUS IS THE SOURCE OF YOUR JOY

*"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him..."* Psalm 28:7 (NIV)

*"I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing."* John 15:5 (AMP)

*"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."* John 15:11 (NIV)

Quote: "Joy is not in things, it is in us."

## **OTHERS BECOME THE FOCUS OF YOUR JOY**

*"For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" Acts 13:47 (NIV)*

*"I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly." Psalm 40:10 (NIV)*

**Quote:** "Joy is the net of love by which you can catch souls."

## **YOU CHOOSE TO SHARE YOUR JOY**

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)*

*"You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." Psalm 16:11 (NIV)*