

365 DEVOTIONS

Embracing Joy *in* His Presence

# Jesus Always



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## JESUS ALWAYS

January 2

**I AM YOUR JOY!** These four words can light up your life. Since I am always with you, *the Joy of My Presence* is continually accessible to you. You can open up to My Presence through your trust in Me, your love for Me. Try saying, “Jesus, You are my Joy.” My Light will shine upon you and within you as you *rejoice in Me*, your Savior. Ponder all I have done for you and all that I am to you. This will lift you up above your circumstances.

When you became My follower, I empowered you to rise above the conditions in your life. I filled you with My Spirit, and this Holy Helper has limitless Power. I promised that *I will come back and take you to be with Me* in heaven—that you may be where *I am* forever. Whenever your world is looking dark, brighten your perspective by focusing on Me. Relax in My Presence, and hear Me saying, “Beloved, I am your Joy!”

PSALM 21:6; PHILIPPIANS 4:4 NKJV;  
JOHN 14:3

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February 27

*I CAME INTO THE WORLD AS A LIGHT so that no one who believes in Me should stay in darkness. I did not just bring light into the world; I Myself am the Light that keeps on shining in the darkness. Since I am infinite and all-powerful, nothing can extinguish this illumination!*

When you believed in Me, you became a *child of Light*, and the brightness entered into your inner being. This helps you see things from My perspective—both things in the world and things in your heart. This illumination of the contents of your heart can be very uncomfortable. However, when it leads to repentance and walking in My ways, it is the road to freedom.

Rejoice in your brightened perspective. *The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the Light of the gospel of My Glory.* But because you are My cherished one, you have *the Light of the knowledge of My Glory* shining in your heart. Rejoice greatly!

JOHN 12:46; JOHN 1:5 AMP;  
1 THESSALONIANS 5:5 ESV;  
2 CORINTHIANS 4:4, 6

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March 1

I GIVE YOU JOY in your journey through the world. This sparkling gift is not a luxury; it's a necessity! There are bumps in the road ahead, as well as sharp curves, ascents, and descents. Without Joy in your heart, you will *become weary and discouraged*.

Joy is not dependent on the circumstances in your life. It can transcend them all! This is why impoverished people are often more joyful than those who have material wealth. Sick—and even dying—people can also be joyful when they're trusting in Me as Savior, Lord, and Friend.

Seek to spread Joy in the world around you. Let My Light reflect from your demeanor—through your smiles, your laughter, your words. The Holy Spirit will equip you to do this as you give Him space in your life. Ask Him to fill you with contagious delight. Concentrate on staying close to Me, and I will lead you along *the path of Life. In My Presence there is fullness of Joy*.

HEBREWS 12:3 NKJV;  
HABAKKUK 3:17-18; PSALM 16:11 ESV

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## JESUS ALWAYS

April 16

*THIS IS THE DAY THAT I HAVE MADE.* I invite you to rejoice in this day as you share it with Me. The more of Me you have in your life, the more joyful you will be.

Invite Me into your moments by talking with Me about everything that concerns you, whatever is on your mind. Your conversations with Me will radically change the way you think. If you've been pre-occupied with something trivial, bringing Me into your thoughts helps you recognize how silly they are. If you're stuck in the past—yearning to change what has happened—My Presence lovingly draws you back into the present. Whatever you're facing, I can help you handle it better.

Seek to find Joy in this day I have made for you. I've hidden small pleasures along your pathway. Search for them, and thank Me for each one you find. Many of the little things that delight your heart are unique to you. I know you so intimately that I can provide just what you need to make you glad. *Rejoice*, beloved!

PSALM 118:24 NKJV;

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18;

PSALM 139:1-3 NASB

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May 5

**I WANT YOU TO LINGER IN GRATITUDE.** This is a most delightful place—where the Joy of My Presence shines warmly upon you.

You often pray fervently for something until you receive the answer you desire. When I grant your request, you respond joyfully and thankfully. But your tendency is to move on rather quickly to the next matter. I want you to remain for a while in an attitude of grateful Joy. Instead of experiencing only a short-lived burst of gratitude, let this pleasure flow freely into the future by training yourself to recall what I have done. One way is to tell others about it. This blesses both them and you, and it pleases Me. Another way is to write down the prayer-answer someplace where you will see it again and again.

Keep bringing your gratitude to Me. This thankfulness will bless you doubly—with happy memories of answered prayer and with the delight of sharing Joy with Me.

PSALM 95:2 NKJV; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:57;  
1 CHRONICLES 16:12 NKJV

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## JESUS ALWAYS

September 6

*I BROADEN THE PATH BENEATH YOU so that your ankles do not turn.* I don't want you to focus overly much on what is ahead of you—wondering whether you'll be able to cope with it. Only *I* know what your future really holds. Moreover, I am the only One who fully understands what you are capable of. Finally, I can alter your circumstances—gradually or dramatically. In fact, I can widen the path you are walking on right now.

I want you to realize how intricately involved in your life I am. I delight in taking care of you—“tweaking” the situation you are in, to spare you from unnecessary hardship. Remember that I am *a shield for all who take refuge in Me*. Your part in this adventurous journey is to trust Me, communicate with Me, and walk with Me in steps of joyful dependence. I will not remove all adversity from your life, but I will widen the path you are traveling on—to *bless you and keep you* from harm.

PSALM 18:36; PSALM 18:30;  
NUMBERS 6:24 NKJV

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October 1

I WANT YOU TO RELAX and enjoy this day. It's easy for you to get so focused on your goals that you push yourself too hard—and neglect your need for rest. You tend to judge yourself on the basis of how much you've accomplished. There is certainly a time and place for being productive, using the opportunities and abilities I provide. Nonetheless, I want you to be able to like yourself as much when you're relaxing as when you're achieving.

Rest in the knowledge that you're a child of God, *saved by grace through faith* in Me. This is your ultimate—and foundational—identity. You hold a position of royalty in My eternal kingdom. Remember who you are!

When you're comfortable enough in your true identity to balance work with relaxation, you are more effective in My kingdom. A refreshed mind is able to think more clearly and biblically. A *restored soul* is more winsome and loving in interactions with others. So take time with Me, and let Me *lead you beside waters of rest*.

GENESIS 2:2-3; EPHESIANS 2:8 NKJV;

PSALM 23:2-3 NASB

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