

Sermon Notes – Chris Pollard

Title: Unstoppable Joy

Main Scripture: Acts 8:1–8

Key Scripture

“The joy of the Lord is your strength.” – Nehemiah 8:10

Main Points

1. Joy That Cannot Be Stolen

- Joy is not the same as happiness—happiness is fleeting, but joy is rooted in Christ.
 - Joy is a spiritual weapon against the enemy’s schemes (John 10:10).
 - **Quote:** “Joy isn’t a fleeting emotion—it’s a weapon against the enemy. The joy of the Lord is your strength, and you can’t manufacture it; it comes from Him alone.”
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2. The Gospel Thrives Through Persecution

- The early church flourished under persecution (Acts 8:1–4).
 - Our greatest platform to show Jesus may come in the hardest seasons.
 - **Quote:** “Persecution can’t stop the gospel. What if the very platform God wants to use to advance His kingdom is the persecution we face today?”
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3. Joy Flows From Connection to Jesus

- True joy comes from Jesus (John 15:11, Psalm 16:11).
- Entertainment and possessions are poor substitutes for spiritual joy.

- **Quote:** “Happiness fades, but true joy flows from being connected to Jesus—the unshakable source that never runs dry.”
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4. Choose Unity, Refuse Offense

- The “spirit of Saul” (bitterness, slander, division) destroys joy and unity in the church.
 - Forgiveness releases joy and freedom.
 - 28 years of offense can steal joy—but repentance restores it.
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5. Joy Is a Lifestyle

- Living joyfully is a daily choice, not a feeling.
 - Being a “joyful witness” is one of the most powerful testimonies to the world.
 - “In Your presence there is fullness of joy” (Psalm 16:11).
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Key Scriptures

- Acts 8:1–8 – The early church’s joy and perseverance
 - Nehemiah 8:10 – “The joy of the Lord is your strength”
 - John 15:11 – Jesus’ joy in us, making our joy full
 - Psalm 16:11 – Fullness of joy in God’s presence
 - Romans 14:17 – The kingdom is righteousness, peace, and joy
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Reflection Questions

1. Where am I substituting temporary happiness for true joy in Christ?
2. How can I use joy as a weapon in my current challenges?
3. Am I allowing offense or bitterness to rob my joy?