

Battle & Build

The Good Gate

Pastor Brad Howard - August 27, 2023

And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!"

Nehemiah 8:10 NLT

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! ... Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! ...

Psalms 100:1-4 ESV

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAPPINESS AND JOY:

- HAPPINESS COMES FROM THE OUTSIDE – JOY IS INTERNAL.

I have told you these things so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

John 15:11 NLT

- HAPPINESS IS BASED ON FEELINGS – JOY IS BASED ON FAITH.

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing..."

Romans 15:13

"Joy is a state of being based on the truth I'm believing."

- HAPPINESS HAPPENS BY CHANCE – JOY HAPPENS BY CHOICE.

This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24 NLT

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT GATE

1. RESIST COMPARING AND COMPLAINING.

Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else.

Galatians 6:4 NLT

"Comparison is the death of joy."

- Mark Twain

Do everything without complaining and arguing,

Philippians 2:14 NLT

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2. REJOICE IN THE LORD.

Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.

Philippians 3:1 NLT

3. PUT YOUR TRUST IN JESUS – HE IS THE GOOD GATE.

Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through Me will be saved ... The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices His life for the sheep ..."

John 10:9-11 NLT