

# The Mighty Works of the Lord: Work Expresses Joy

## Day 1

### The Basics

Check out this great devotional to understand the basics of taking joy in your work:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/how-to-find-joy-in-your-work>

*Verses: Ecclesiastes 9:9-10, Ecclesiastes 8:14-15, John 6:27*

*Prayer Topics: Rewards, Abundance, Endurance*

## Day 2

### Purpose

Finding joy in your work is related to finding purpose in your labor. Check out this devotional to find out more:

<https://depree.org/life-for-leaders/finding-joy-in-work-2/>

*Verses: Ephesians 2:10, Jeremiah 29:11, Romans 8:28*

*Prayer Topics: Intentions, Direction, Dedication*

### **Day 3**

#### **Cause and Effect**

Here is a great devotional on the relationship between joy and faith:

<https://livingbyfaithblog.com/2012/01/24/the-faith-joy-connection/>

What does this help us learn about having joy in our work?

*Verses: Hebrews 11:6, Matthew 21:22, Romans 10:17*

## *Prayer Topics: Peace, Trust, Consistency*

### **Day 4** **Hope**

In order for us to find joy in our work, we must become people of hope. Scripture tells us that Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him. We know that the cross itself was not pleasant or enjoyable, for Jesus sweat drops of blood and asked if the cup could be taken from him, but ultimately submitted to the will of the Father and endured the crucifixion. There was no joy in the moment, but we know that there was hope in the moment of anguish, for joy could be counted on in the future. All work resembles this in some way, because we work for something, work has a purpose. Work is done "so that", meaning that it is not done for its own sake but for a future glory. This is why hope is so necessary to finding joy in our work, because without hope work is only toilsome. When work gained the curse after the fall, it is easy to understand why this happened. Although work was given to Adam and Eve before the fall, when we are told that things were "good" or even "very good", separation from God and the glory of salvation removed the hopefulness from our work and made it toilsome. When Jesus died on the cross, he did so for the joy set before him, meaning that he could endure the suffering in hope of

future glory. That glory was not only his but also ours, as the renewed relationship with God also meant a renewed hope that our efforts will be fruitful, that future glory awaits and that we can now work in true hope that brings joy to our present work.

*Verses: 1 Peter 1:3, Romans 5:5, Proverbs 23:18*

*Prayer Topics: Expectations, Promises, Perspective*

## **Day 5**

**Thanks to Sylvester Warsaw, Jr for our devotional today**

In John 14 we see Jesus addressing the problem/issue of identity and what it means in Him. Although, I want to quote verses 10-12, I want to encourage you to read the entire chapter asking the Holy Spirit to give you understanding. You'll find these words recorded in John 14:10-12, "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also, and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father.” When we accept God’s gift of salvation in and through Christ Jesus He’s not only inviting us to participate in redemptive history but also prepare us to participate as His living witness/ambassadors. Paul tells us this in Ephesians 2:8-10, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” As disciples of Christ, the life God has called us to live in and through Christ Jesus is a life filled with His joy because He dwells with and in us in the Holy Spirit and it’s His work at work in and through us, John 16:7-15. Because of God’s redemptive work in and through Christ Jesus’s death on the cross and His resurrection and because God can’t lie we see His faithfulness when He sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Acts 2 for all to experience who were in Jerusalem during Pentecost because all there heard the wonderful acts of God in their own language. When Jesus is Lord and Savior of our life we can’t help but be like the Samaritan woman who told people in her city “Come see a Man who told me everything I did,” John 4:29. Many of us don’t have silver or gold but we carry Jesus and He’s more than enough, Acts 2:6. The greatest gift we as disciples of Christ can offer anyone is the gift of salvation in and through Christ Jesus because He offers the gift of eternal life to all who are His and there’s nothing greater. Silver and gold nor anything this

world order has to offer can be even compared to eternal life in Christ Jesus!