



A Year of Personal Prayer Focus

PRAYING THE BIBLE

JANUARY

INTRODUCTION:

Rejoice! As part of the World Network of Prayer you are part of the biggest prayer movement the world has ever known! Millions are praying! Isaiah prophesied that we would be made joyful in the house of prayer at a time when God's house would be known as a house of prayer (Isaiah 56:7).

There is so much sorrow and tragedy in the world that I fear sometimes we are short on joy. We have just finished singing, "Joy to the World"-for the Lord has come! It matters not what the present circumstances are-He is Lord of all! Moffatt's translation of Hebrews 1:2 is, "He is the predestined Lord of the universe! He was the beginning and will remain when everything else perishes!" (Hebrews 1:10-11).

FIRST FOCUS:

- Joy is essential to a Christian. The joy of the Lord is our strength! (Nehemiah 8:10).
- Prayer and joyful worship go together. When all the prayers and intercessions of the saints are gathered together and presented before the throne of God it is done with harps and a song.
- For this entire first month of a new year, let us determine to rejoice in the God of our salvation! "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord. I will joy in the God of my salvation" (Habakkuk 3:18).

SECOND FOCUS:

- Together, we are seriously endeavoring to experience more joy in prayer this month (See First Focus).
- Our scripture for this week is: "And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord; it shall rejoice in his salvation" (Psalm 35:9).

THIRD FOCUS:

- Travail and intercession are a needful part of prayer but joy in the result of faith in the promises of God.
- Meditate on John 16:20-24. We often use this concerning travail-But five times Jesus referred to joy/rejoice in these 4 verses. "...ask and ye shall receive that your joy may be full" (Verse 24).
- His promises are true-rejoice.

FOURTH FOCUS:

- To refuse to be joyful can be ingratitude.
- Meditate in Psalm 63. "...and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips...when I remember...because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice" (Verses 5-7).

FIFTH FOCUS:

- No prayer is as powerful as praying the Word. When life is without joy-pray the Word!
- "...thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart..." (Jeremiah 15:16).
- Joy can be found in His word if it is not in your circumstances.

