



2017: What are we saved **FOR**?

## Spiritual Substance

We were redeemed by Christ to be bearers of God's image in His spiritual substance.

We were made for godliness, holiness, and righteousness (but not self-righteousness).

### 3 PETER 1:3-41 / 1 THESS 1:1-10

The divine power has given us everything we need for this and godliness through our knowledge of His glorious promises to His own glory and goodness. Through them to His glory in His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption that the world desires by its lusts.

For this very reason, making every effort to add to your faith, godliness, and to godliness, knowledge, self-control, and to self-control, perseverance, and to perseverance, gentleness, and to gentleness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have these, he is untaught and foolish, and if he forgets that he has been blessed from his past sins.

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fail, and you will receive an abundant harvest of the righteousness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

100% Joy is a Fight



### Joy is a Fight

by Pastor John MacArthur



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LUKE



2017: What are we saved ***FOR***?

# Spiritual Substance

We were redeemed by Christ to be bearers of God's image in His spiritual substance.

We were made for godliness, holiness, and righteousness (but not self-righteousness).



## 2 PETER 1:3-11 // NIV 1984

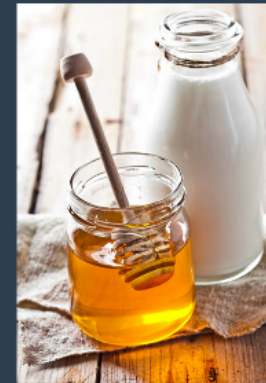
**His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness** through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

**For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith** goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, and **you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

2018: What is the **FUEL** that drives spiritual substance?

75-1 Joy



the **motivational fuel** for spiritual substance

the **destiny** of redeemed creatures

the **emotion rightly evoked** by goodness and glory

# Joy is a Fight

"Make every effort to add to your faith..."

OT Festivals

"Spiritual Ferocity"



# So **HOW** do you fight for Joy?

"the terrible war of defeating lesser loves and silly lies."

OT Festivals  The Gospel

## **Jeremiah 2:13-14**

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water. Is Israel a servant, a slave by birth? Why then has he become plunder?"

# Luke: Fighting for Joy with the Gospel

Luke 2:10-11 (to the shepherds)

...the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."



# Luke's "Infancy Narratives"

- the angel coming to Zachariah and Elizabeth becoming pregnant and bearing John the Baptist
- the angel Gabriel going to Nazareth and speaking to Mary about becoming pregnant with Jesus
- Mary visiting Elizabeth, and Mary's song
- the birth of John the Baptist and Zachariah's song
- the trek of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem
- the birth of Jesus in a manger because there was no room in the inn
- shepherds in the field at night – seeing the great host of angels singing about the glory of God
- and the only story of Jesus as a boy – when he stayed behind in the temple speaking to the religious teachers in his father's house

# The **Glory of God** is revealed in **Jesus** for the **joy of all** people.

## **Luke 2:19**

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

## **Luke 2:51**

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

So why does the gospel start with these very formal first four verses?

The Good News rests on certain testimony.

*or*

The testimony about Jesus is solid as a rock.

# 1. News rests on testimony

## Speech

- Personal expertise
- Coherent message
- intuitive appeal
- relevant and useful
- promising if done
- useful
- verifiable through practice

## News

- personally witnessed
- thoroughly investigated
- truthful testimony

(since it is an  
unrepeatable event)



2. The Gospel rests on abundant  
and credible testimony

15 references to credible and abundant testimony:

Luke 1:1-4

**Many** have **undertaken** to draw up **an account** of the things that have been fulfilled **among us, just as** they **were handed down** to us by those who **from the first** were **eyewitnesses** and **servants** of the word. Therefore, since **I myself** have **carefully investigated everything from the beginning**, it seemed good also to me to write **an orderly account** for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may **know the certainty** of the things you have been taught.

### 3. The goal is credible certainty of the truth

verse 1 “...things that have been fulfilled among us.”

verse 2 “...servants of the word.”

verse 4 “...the certainty of the things you have been taught.”

