

Spreading the Joy

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THE CAST OF Christmas

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And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child (Luke 2:8-10,15-17). The role of the Shepherds is to "spread the word", the word about the Joy that the Lord brings to this world when He first came in a very humble manner. Whenever we come to His season, you see the word "Joy" all over the place. But a lot of people don't really understand what it meant. It is easily mistaken by many with the word happiness. But they are not the same. Happiness is based on "happenings". When you go to happy place, you experience happiness. Happiness is Temporary. Merriam-Webster dictionary defined "happiness" as "pleasurable or satisfying experience". "A state of well being and contentment". On the other hand, Joy is eternal. It was defined by the same dictionary as "a source or cause of delight". Luke 1:47 (GW) says, "47 My spirit finds its joy in God, my Savior". Joy is a character, a commitment, a choice. To find true joy we should know the "ABC that Kills Joy" which are Anxiety, Bitterness and Confusion.



THE "ABC" THAT KILLS JOY

KILL JOY #1: TRUST GOD AND

Luke 1:38 NIV 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her." Question: What are you anxious about this Christmas?

KILL JOY #2: OFFER GRACE AND

Matthew 1:24-25 NIV 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. Question: Do you want to be bitter, or do you want to be blessed this Christmas?

KILL JOY #3: FOLLOW GOD'S LIGHT

Matthew 2:1-2 TEV 1 Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterwards, some men who studied the stars came from the east to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him.. Question: What area of your life do you encounter confusion? How do you plan to navigate out of that confusion? Impact the world?



One Church! One Message!

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