

March 31, 2025

The joy of the Lord is your strength

Nehemiah 8:10

“The joy of the Lord.” Springing from the Lord as its source, it will necessarily be of a elevated character. Since man fell in the garden, he has too often sought for his enjoyments where the serpent finds his; it is written, “upon your belly shall you go, and so shall you eat dust all the days of your life”; this was the serpent’s doom, and man, with infatuated ambition, has tried to find his delight in his sensual appetites, and to content his soul with earth’s poor dust. But the joys of time cannot satisfy an undying nature, and when a soul is once quickened by the eternal Spirit, it can no more fill itself with worldly mirth, or even with the common enjoyments of life, than can a man snuff up wind and feed on it; but, beloved, we are not left to search for joy, it is brought to our doors by the love of God our Father; joy refined and satisfying, befitting immortal spirits. God has not left us to wander among those unsatisfactory things which mock the chase which they invite; He has given us appetites which carnal things cannot content, and He has provided suitable satisfaction for those appetites; He has stored up at His right hand pleasures forevermore, which even now He reveals by His Spirit to those chosen ones whom He has taught to long for them.

Let us endeavor to analyze that special and peculiar pleasure which is here called “The joy of the Lord.” It springs from God and has God for its objective. The believer who is in a spiritually healthy state rejoices mainly in God Himself; he is happy because there is a God, and because God is in His person and character what He is. All the attributes of God become wellsprings of joy to the thoughtful contemplative believer, for such a man says within his soul, “All these attributes of my God are mine; His power is my protection; His wisdom is my guidance; His faithfulness is my foundation; His grace is my salvation.”

[The above devotion is from, “Meditations on Manhood”, Barbour Publishing, 2023. It is an excerpt from Charles Spurgeon’s sermon, “The Joy of the Lord, The Strength of His People”, (1871).

The Mission to Mardi Gras is over for this year. This year, 31 men from 10 different states were called by the Lord to be a part of this mission. Their ages ranged from 22-81. It was truly a blessing! We worshipped together. We prayed together. We gleaned from the Word together as the Lord provided us two teachers with timely, relevant teaching, which He used in our midst. And we proclaimed the truth of His Gospel on the streets of the French Quarter together.

The Gospel was preached, shared in conversation, and distributed through tracts; over 45,000 Gospel tracts were distributed! And as the Gospel went out, the Lord drew men, and women, to Himself! 24 people made professions of faith. We have reached out to these as the contact information provided permits, in an effort to help them in their walk with Christ. Please be in prayer for your new Brothers and Sisters. As well be in prayer for those who received any Gospel witness, be it through our efforts or from one of the many other groups who were proclaiming Christ. Many seeds were planted and the field was tended. May the Lord grow the seed to harvest in His time!

A special thanks to Dr. Preston Nix (NOBTS) and Pastor Trey Williams (Tammany BC) for their teaching and to Pastor Robert Presson (City Revival Church) for graciously providing hospitality to our team, and others, while we were on the street.

In each instance above, we are grateful to the Lord for His blessing to us through your service for Him!

Memphis in May -

- May 1st – 4th
- This mission is **open to men and women**.
- Lodging will be at Leawood Baptist Church.

For more information call, text, or email us using the contacts listed at the top of this newsletter.

We request your prayers for the following:

- Pray the Lord's people will humble themselves that He would heal our land (2 Chron 7:14).
- Pray for the peace of Israel.
- Pray for our nation's leaders at every level.
 - May those who know Him govern with godly wisdom.
 - May those who are lost be drawn to honor the Lord with their lives.
- Be in prayer for all the saints. (Eph 6:18).
 - Pray for Brother O. as he shepherds and proclaims the Gospel in Nigeria.
- Pray for Sachin. He received one of our tracts in New Orleans during Mardi Gras and reached out via email to hear more about Jesus. We are currently in conversation regarding the Gospel and His need for Christ.
- We ask that you pray for the ongoing ministry of Call of Grace

Is there something we can pray for you? If so please let us know.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Everything the Lord calls us to do is done with your help and we are truly grateful you are a part of this ministry to the Lord. If you or your church believe we could be of service to you, please contact us.

Until Jesus comes,

Dennis & Cindy

~Cindy's Bottom Line~

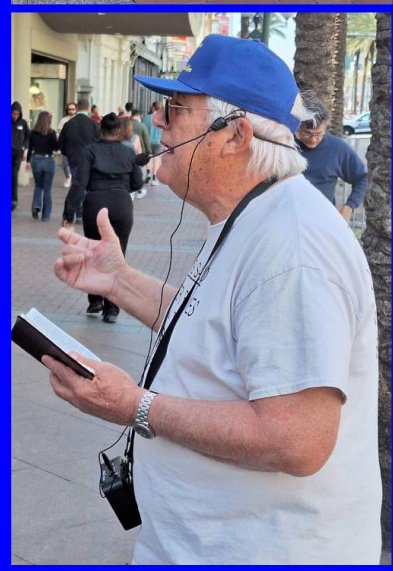
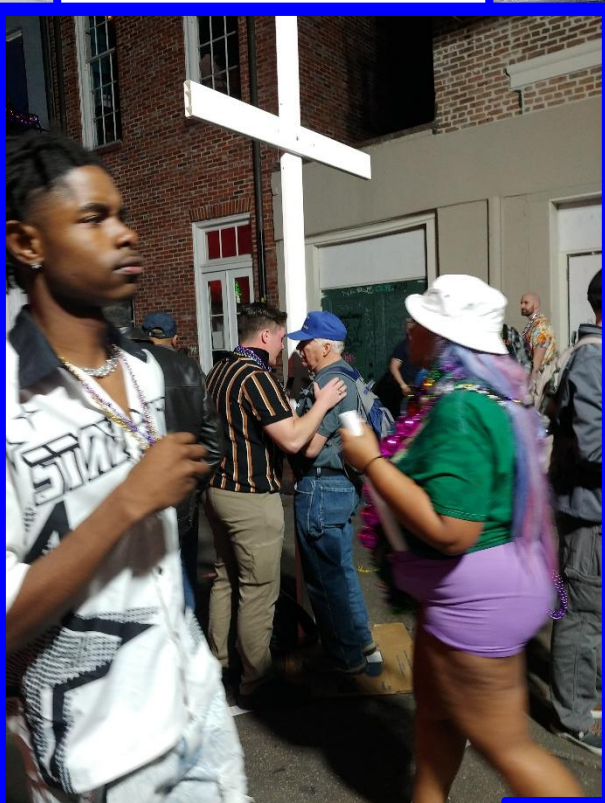
The joy of the Lord provides us with a new perspective. We can see life through a different lens. It allows us to focus on the faithfulness of God rather than our circumstances. The joy of the Lord is readily available to all who will seek it.

Call of Grace Ministries is a 501(c)3 ministry and your contributions are tax deductible. All donations to Call of Grace are used for ministry expenses. We go as God provides and your support of this ministry is a blessing to us as we move forward in the Lord's call.



"The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Matthew 9:37-38



2025 Mission to Mardi Gras