

## THE ABSENCE OF JOY CAN CAUSE THE HARVEST TO BE LOST

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Joel 1:9-12 The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD's ministers, mourn. The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth. Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished. The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.

The prophet Joel says that the harvest is being lost because of the absence of joy.

A person who claims to be a Christian, yet they have lost their joy, is a poor representative of what a true Christian is supposed to be.

In order for us to be able to share the joy of the Lord with others, we must have it ourselves.

Do you have the joy of the Lord inside of you? Is it evident to those around you?

"Pastor, if you knew what I was going through, you would understand why I'm not happy." I'm not talking about happiness. I'm talking about joy! Happiness depends upon right happenings but we can have joy, regardless of what we might be going through.

Isa 12:3-6 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

We are supposed to be praising the name of the Lord. Declaring the things that He is doing among the people.

Our world needs to see joy whenever they look at us. They need to see people that are excited about what God has done in their lives. If people don't see any joy, if they don't see any difference in us from the rest of the world, they won't see the need for God in their lives and they will die lost.

We need to live in such a way that everybody around us wants what we have.

Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

That is God's will for every one of us.