

Joy by Tracey Lynn Russell

Jesus
Obstacle
You

You will find Joy overcoming the obstacle – Hellen Keller

What is the obstacle standing in the way of your joy?

-Spiritual, physical, emotional, financial.

Identify this obstacle in your heart

Many mothers dream of the special things they want to give their children. They want to give them a memorable childhood filled with laughter, gifts and happy experiences.

Mothers want to give their children gifts that will make them smile, a nurturing environment filled with hugs and kisses and a strong foundation of character. Of all the gifts my mother has given me, her joy in the face of the obstacle of cancer has been priceless. So often I see the acrostic for joy as Jesus Others You – but I am living proof that the true biblical joy of the bible is seen most clearly in the life of a mother during our greatest obstacle of cancer.

Biblical Joy is the Greek word Chara which means joy but it comes from the Greek word Charis which means grace of God. In other words, you can't have Chara, joy, without Charis, the grace that comes from God alone. Joy is a gift of the spirit. Joy is the gift present in your life that others will notice in the midst of your obstacle to authenticate your faith in Charis, the grace of God.

Joy to the world

There is no greater time that the Bible speaks of Joy coming to earth than the birth of Jesus. Joy was Jesus overcoming the obstacle of sin to bring you to heaven. Jesus Obstacle You. He came to earth for you to have his joy and make his joy complete in your heart. You can have his overcoming joy in your obstacle.

We receive his joy with a one word prayer-

How?

Mary was visited by an angel to let her know of a change of plans from God. She was going to be the mother of the savior of the world, but this meant a huge obstacle was thrown into her plans for the perfect wedding to Joseph. Instead of complaining with why's or what's, she stated the one word prayer of faith that will bring joy.

Luke 1:34

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel

In the face of your obstacle this Christmas, begin to pray one word prayer of faith, How? God, How will you overcome my obstacle and bring me your joy?

This prayer places you in the position of faith, expecting the Charis of God to give you the chara or joy to face your situation.

*"But when you ask [God], be sure that you really expect Him to answer" [James 1:6-7 NLT](#)
"for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."*

Philippians 2:13

Jesus knows How he will overcome the obstacle in you and bring you joy.

Now!

Luke 1:38

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

A whole-hearted surrender to God requires the humility of seeing ourselves as God's servant. The time is NOW for you to say, "I am God's servant, let it be to me according to your word. This is a heart that surrenders her plans for God's purpose and His ultimate glory to be accomplished in her life. God promises to help his servant. Isaiah 41:9-10 'You are my servant'; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Now is the time for humility as God's servant that brings joy.

WOW!

Luke 1:45

Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

With Mary's wholehearted surrender to God, she faced so many obstacles.

She faced the physical problems of pregnancy outside of marriage, the family problems of a broken engagement, the emotional problems that come with failed plans for the future. Yet, she served God with faith and humility in the face of these obstacles. When Mary was six months pregnant she visited her cousin Elizabeth. She was "WOW-ed" by Mary's faith. In the midst of her obstacle of an unexpected pregnancy, Elisabeth declared that Mary was blessed for believing in God's promises. When we have faith that God will give us joy in our obstacles, people watching our lives will say, WOW! They will see that you have joy because of the grace of God at work in you. Expect a WOW from others by watching Jesus, the obstacle and you!

Jesus

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