



Christmas joy?



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A night sky with a bright star and a beam of light shining down on a manger scene. The background is a dark blue night sky filled with stars. A bright star is positioned at the top center, with a vertical beam of light shining down from it towards a manger scene at the bottom. The manger scene is dimly lit and shows a baby in a manger, with some figures around it. The overall scene is a classic depiction of the birth of Jesus.

Finding Great Joy in God

Part 2 of Magi★cal Christmas

Matthew 2:10

A night sky with a bright starburst in the upper center, casting a vertical beam of light down to a landscape. The landscape features a tent on the left, a boat in the middle, and a tree on the right. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Coming to God – December 7

Finding Great Joy in God – December 14

Worshiping God – December 21

Giving to God – December 28

2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy..

Matthew 2:1-10

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy..

v.10



Paul's Example:

...In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy. 2 Corinthians 7:4

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake... Colossians 1:24

You find it in belonging to the kingdom of God.



A night sky with a bright starburst in the upper center, casting a vertical beam of light down towards a tent on the ground. The scene is dark blue with scattered stars.

You find it in belonging to the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17

You find it in knowing your name is written in Heaven.



A night sky with a bright starburst in the center, casting a beam of light down towards a landscape. The landscape features a tent on the left, a boat in the middle, and some trees on the right. The overall scene is dark blue and black, with the light from the starburst illuminating the scene.

You find it in knowing your name is written in Heaven.

²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:20

¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15

You find it in believing God.



A night sky with a bright starburst in the upper center. A vertical beam of light shines down from the starburst towards a tent on the ground. The background is a dark blue night sky with some faint stars.

You find it in believing God.

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

You find it as the Holy Spirit produces it in you.



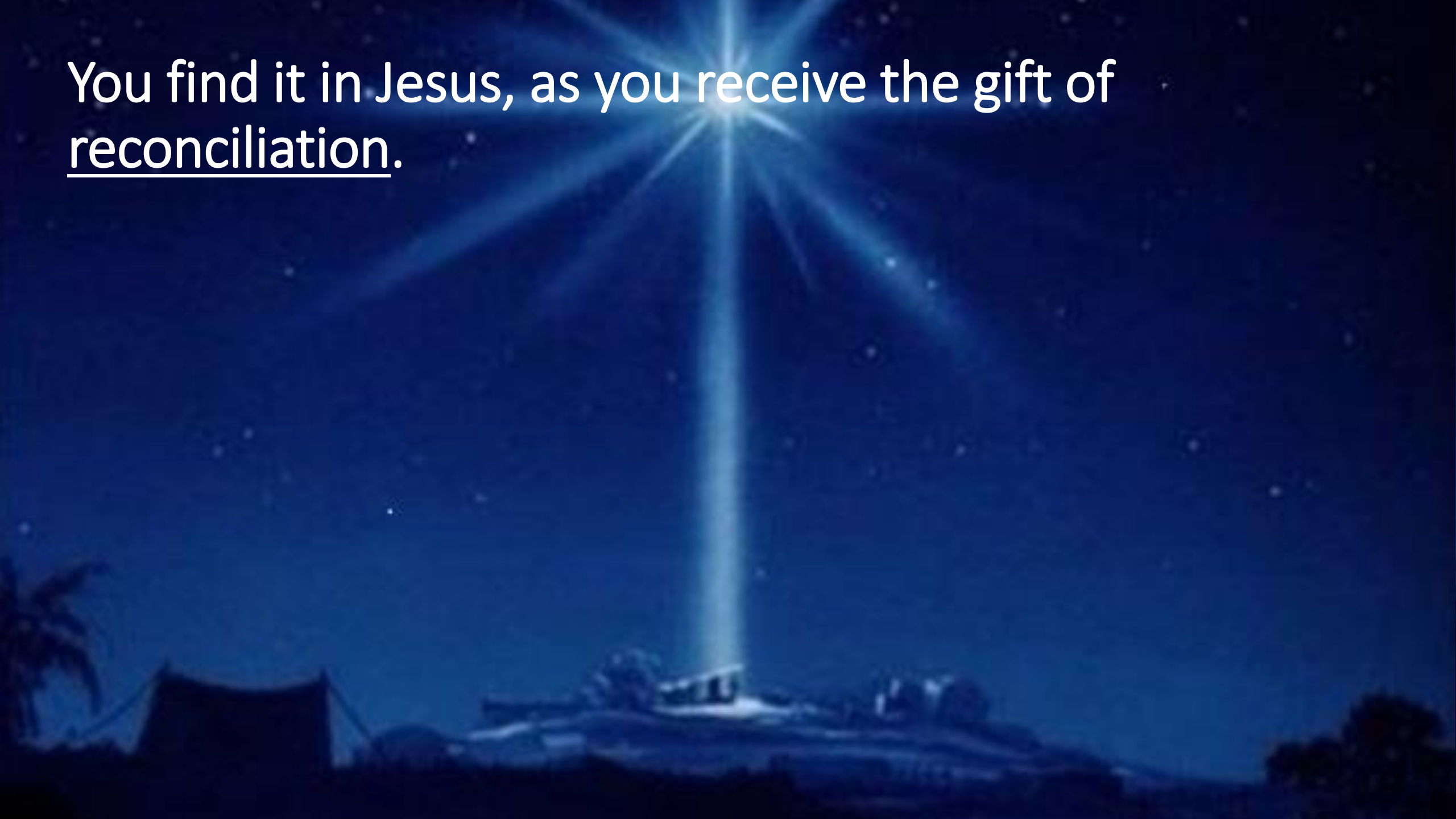
A night sky with a bright starburst in the center, casting a beam of light down towards a landscape. The landscape features a tent on the left and some trees on the right, all in silhouette against the dark blue night sky.

You find it as the Holy Spirit produces it in you.

The fruit of the Spirit is ... Joy Galatians 5:22

You received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit 1 Thessalonians 1:6

You find it in Jesus, as you receive the gift of reconciliation.



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Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Romans 5:9-11





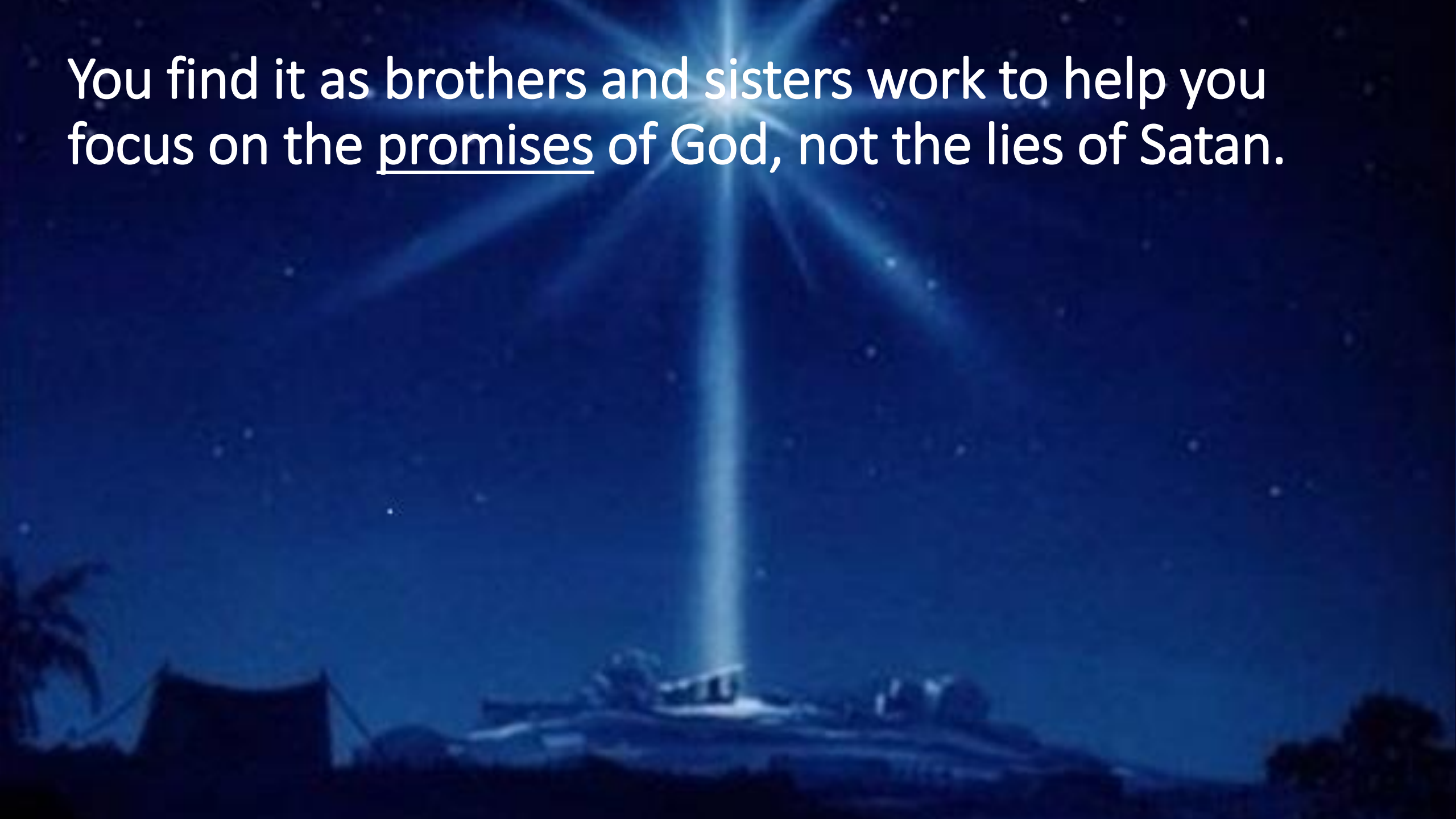


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Romans 5:9-11

You find it as brothers and sisters work to help you focus on the promises of God, not the lies of Satan.



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²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory... ²⁴ ...we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

2 Corinthians 1:20,24

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:12-13

You find it in the various trials you meet.



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*²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,
James 1:2*

You find it in the various trials you meet.

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James 1:2*



You find it in the various trials you meet.

³ *for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.*

⁴ *And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4*

Why should you count it joy to meet a new trial?



A night sky with a bright starburst in the upper center. A vertical beam of light shines down from the starburst towards a tent on the ground. The background is dark blue with some faint stars and a silhouette of a tent on the left.

Why should you count it joy to meet a new trial?

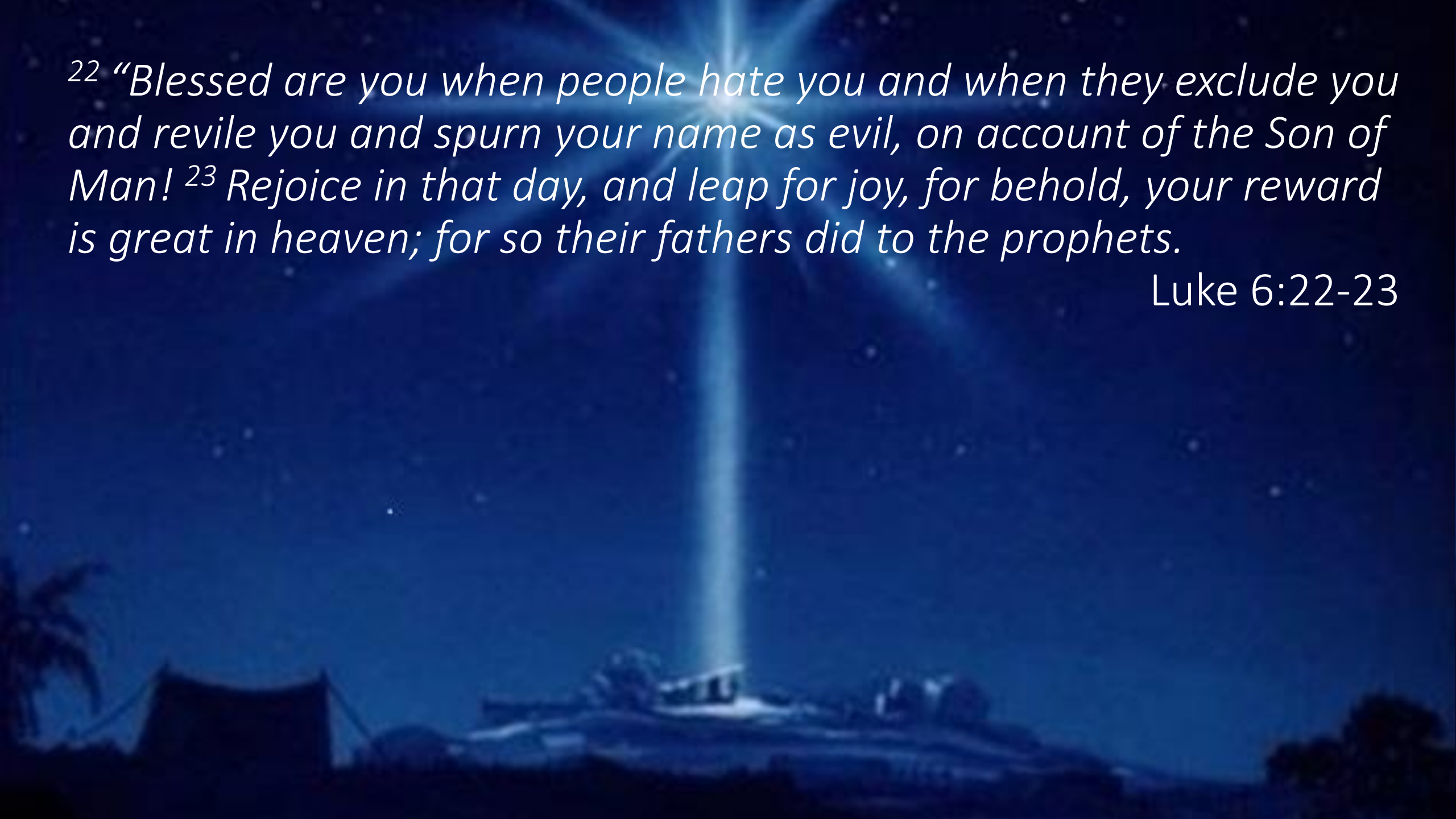
Because the trials are helping you achieve your goal of maturity in Christ! (James 1:3-4)

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Why should you count it joy to meet a new trial?

Because the trials are helping you achieve your goal of maturity in Christ! (James 1:3-4)

Because your reward in Heaven for suffering persecution is going to be great! (Luke 6:22-23)

A night sky with a bright starburst in the upper center. A vertical beam of light shines down from the starburst onto a landscape below. In the foreground, there is a dark tent on the left and a boat on the water in the center. The background shows a dark horizon with some trees and a small building.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

Luke 6:22-23

It's no wonder Paul could say:



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A dramatic sunset over a green field. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow. A lightning bolt strikes down from the dark blue sky above. The foreground is a lush green field.

Joy is not the
absence of suffering.
It is the presence of God.

A blue-toned night scene with a bright starburst light shining down on a manger. The scene is set in a dark, starry sky. A bright, multi-pointed starburst light is positioned at the top center, with a thick, vertical beam of light extending downwards from it. The beam illuminates a manger or stable structure on the ground. The overall atmosphere is serene and spiritual.

This Christmas, JOY...

Not in the presents.

In the *presence*.