

SEEDS OF JOY & HOPE

Pastor Rich Schmidt • December 17, 2017 • www.LivingHope.info

- ¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
***He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,***
- ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
***to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion—***
- ³ to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
***the oil of joy
instead of mourning,***
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
***They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord
for the display of his splendor.***
- ⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.
...
- ⁸ "For I, the LORD, love justice;
I hate robbery and wrongdoing.
In my faithfulness I will reward my people
and make an everlasting covenant with them.
- ⁹ ***Their descendants will be known among the nations
and their offspring among the peoples.
All who see them will acknowledge
that they are a people the LORD has blessed.***"
- ¹⁰ I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- ¹¹ ***For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.***

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (NIV)
See Luke 4:14-21

- ¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.
- ² ***Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.***
Then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- ³ ***The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.***
- ⁴ Restore our fortunes, LORD,
like streams in the Negev.
- ⁵ Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
- ⁶ ***Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.***

Psalms 126 (NIV)

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ...

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."
"Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.
John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NIV)

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (NIV)