

1. We're going to continue this morning with our word from the lord for 2023.
2. That word is **this is your year of jubilee.**
3. The word jubilee is first seen in the book of Leviticus chapter 25.
4. The year of jubilee occurred every 50 years. And in the 50th year, all properties, houses, and lands were returned to their original owner, and anyone who had sold themselves as a servant would be granted their freedom.
5. The word Jubilee means liberty or freedom. As that freedom was given, each and every person, place or thing was restored back to its originally intended purpose.
6. I believe in 2023, that the Lord wants to restore everything and every relationship, back to our lives so that we can live out our originally intended purpose, which is to bring him glory and honor.
7. A few weeks ago, we said one of the things the Lord wants to restore to our lives is the ability to hear his voice.
8. **Isaiah 50:4-5** The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. **5** The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;
9. Romans chapter 10 says that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
10. So, as we hear God's voice, it builds our faith.
11. God wants to restore our faith in him, so that we can receive the fullness of the miracles that he has in store for our lives.
12. In the message a few weeks ago, we described some things that can hinder our ability to hear God's voice.
13. The first thing that can hinder our ability to hear God's voice he is asking the wrong questions.
14. Another thing that can hinder our ability to hear God's voice, is when we have developed the habit of tuning God's voice out.
15. And then finally, one of the things we said can hinder our ability to hear God's voice, is having too many distractions in our lives.
16. As we move on in our series today, we're going to consider the life of a man, who for a period in his life, became good at tuning out the voice of God.

17. And the result of his not hearing God's voice, was that he lost his joy.
18. And so today, we're going to look at what can rob us of our joy, and what can help us to see that joy restored in our lives.
19. Turn with me if you would to the book of psalms, chapter 51.
20. Verse one tells us that this was a Psalm, or a song, that David wrote as a result of his being confronted by the prophet Nathan, when he had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

TEXT: **Psalm 51:1-12** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. 7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

TITLE: **The joy of your salvation.**

INTRO.

1. The word joy is found over 200 times in the Bible.
2. One of the definitions of the word joy is, a source or cause of delight.
3. I believe that God has designed our salvation in him, our walk with him, to be a source of joy in our life.
4. God's desire is that our relationship with him causes or brings delight into our lives.
5. God never intended our walk with him to be a walk of misery, or agony, or anguish.
6. God never intended our relationship with him to be one of despondency, or down heartedness, Or despair. he wants our relationship with him to be a source of great joy.
7. However, we know we have an enemy that will do everything in his

power to steal our joy or to rob us of our joy.

8. So therefore, we must guard our joy. Because joy is something that can be given away or lost.
9. David said in verse 12, Restore to me the joy of my salvation.
10. That word restore indicates that at one point David was experiencing joy in his salvation with the Lord, but that he was no longer experiencing that joy, and he wanted to get that joy back. He was asking God to restore to him what had been lost.
11. maybe I'm way off base, but it seems to me that in our world today, among those who call themselves believers in Jesus, there has been a loss of joy.
12. I won't ask you to respond out loud or raise your hand, but is it possible that there has been a loss of joy in your life?
13. Is it possible that the joy you once had, has been replaced by something that doesn't even resemble joy?
14. Which word would be more likely to describe your walk with the Lord at this time? Misery, agony, despair, tribulation, sorrow, anguish. Or would you use the word joy to describe your walk with the Lord?
15. I am convinced in 2023 that like David God wants to restore the joy of his salvation in our lives.
16. To be clear, I'm not suggesting that we can totally avoid despair and trials and tribulations and sorrows and difficulty, but what I am saying is that joy is not meant to be an occasional thing, it is meant to be the norm in our walk with him.
17. In fact, I believe it's possible to have a life of joy even when we are going through things that are difficult and hard and sorrowful.
18. So what I want us to do is look at the life of David, and see if we can determine what caused him to lose the joy that he once had in his life.
19. I'm not going to read the story of David and Bathsheba, but if you'd like to go back and read it for yourself, the story is found in second Samuel chapters 11 and 12.
20. one evening when David couldn't sleep, he was up on the roof of his house. And he happened to look down and see a beautiful woman by the name of Bathsheba taking a bath.
21. David commands his servants, I want you to go bring that woman to

me and I want to sleep with her. But the servants responded isn't this the wife of Uriah? one of your most trusted and mighty men?

22. But David didn't care, and he sent them to get her anyway.
23. He did sleep with her and as a result she became pregnant.
24. So in order to conceal the fact that David had committed adultery with her while Bathsheba's husband was off to war, he did his best to try to deceive Uriah into coming back home and spending intimate time with his wife.
25. But when that didn't work, David orchestrated a plan to have Uriah killed in battle, but to make it look like it was an accident.
26. After Bathsheba had mourned the death of her husband, David sent for her, took her as his wife, and pretended like nothing improper had ever happened.
27. Nine months later Bathsheba gave birth to a baby boy.
28. So, for about a year, David went on about his business being king, all the while he had committed not only adultery but had committed murder as well.
29. Second Samuel Chapter 11 verse 27 says that the thing David had done displeased the Lord greatly.
30. So for about a year, David was going about his business as if nothing had ever happened.
31. he was essentially hiding his wrongdoing in plain sight.
32. What is it about us that makes us think we can hide our wrongdoing or our sin from God?
33. A couple of weeks ago in my small group everyone in the group agreed that at one time or another we had tried to hide something from God even though we know it's impossible to do so.
34. We have to know we come by it honestly. In the book of genesis when Adam and Eve sinned against God the first thing they did was try to hide when God came to spend time with them.
35. But hiding from God doesn't work. And there's a very good reason why trying to hide from God doesn't work.
36. Psalm 51:5-6 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

37. What did David mean when he said surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me?
38. Was he saying that as a baby he had committed some sin? No, what he was saying was he was born with a sin nature.
39. The writer of the book of Romans said it this way. **Romans 5:12**
Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—
40. So, even though we all have this sin nature, and even though the Bible teaches us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, our response oftentimes is to try to hide from God the very things that God already knows about.
41. But David reminds us of the way we were created by God.
42. **Psalm 51:6** Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.
43. I believe it's possible there are several meanings in this verse, but I also believe one of the things David is saying is that we were created by God in our mother's womb with the ability to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, that shows us when we are off track or off God's path of righteousness.
44. The voice of the Holy Spirit is something that we cannot escape. And yet like David, if we are not careful when we fail. Notice I did not say if we fail but I said when we fail. If we are not careful we can default to trying to conceal or hide what we have done from God.
45. And just like David, when we try and hide from God what is impossible to hide from God, the result is almost always a loss of joy.
46. **Nothing will sap your joy like trying to do something that is literally impossible to do.**
47. Try and control what someone else thinks or how they act and see if you are left with anything but joy.
48. Try and worry about something that hasn't even happened yet and see if there is a lack of joy.
49. David was trying to live and act as if he had done nothing wrong, and all the while the Holy Spirit was poking and prodding him, trying to get him to come clean about what he had done, and the result of his pretending and hiding was that he had lost the joy of God's Salvation.
50. His walk with the Lord no longer brought him excitement and delight

and pleasure.

51. So, when David was confronted by the prophet Nathan, he realized that the only way to see that joy restored was to come clean with God.
52. He realized that the pathway to seeing joy restored was through confession.
53. I want to re-read a few verses from The Amplified Bible because it uses stronger wording than the NIV.
54. Psalm 51:1-4 Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness *and* guilt And cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I am conscious of my transgressions *and* I acknowledge them; My sin is always before me. 4 Against You, You only, have I sinned And done that which is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak [*Your sentence*] And faultless in Your judgment. (AMP)
55. In these verses David does a couple of things. He very intentionally stops hiding and comes out in the open, and secondly he doesn't sugar-coat or downplay his sin, he tells it like it is.
56. In verse 3 David says I am conscious of my transgressions and I acknowledge them.
57. Before, I believe David was conscious of his sin, but he was unwilling to acknowledge it. But now he stops hiding.
58. And listen to the words he uses to describe what he has done.
59. Transgressions, wickedness, guilt, sin, evil.
60. Let's be honest. Those are words we can't stand to associate ourselves with. Wicked and evil is how we see others who do us wrong.
61. But the reality is, sometimes, as bad as I hate to admit it, thoughts I have and things I do are wicked, sinful, and evil.
62. Why are they wicked and sinful and evil? Because of who I am sinning against. I am sinning against a God who has done nothing but love me and provide for me and lay down his very life in place of my own, and I take him for granted.
63. I treat what he has done for me with contempt, and that my friend is wicked and evil.
64. And I hate to bring up the obvious, but all of us are in the same boat. All of us are guilty.

65. And it is because of that guilt that the last thing we want to do is confess what we have done. Because to confess is to admit, I am at fault.
66. But I am learning more and more that confession doesn't have to be this thing that we avoid like the plague.
67. Partly because confession is the only way for the joy of our salvation to be restored.
68. But mainly because God doesn't view confession the same way we do.
69. How do we view confession? How does it make us feel when someone drops their head and says, I have a confession to make?
70. We immediately think the worst. We get this sick feeling in the pit of our stomach. Why? Because we are afraid of how it will affect us. We are afraid of the pain.
71. But listen. You and I can confess our sins to God because God doesn't respond the same way we do. In fact, God has already predetermined how he will respond to our confessions.
72. 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
73. You and I can confess freely to God because God doesn't respond to confession the way we do.
74. When we confess to God, he doesn't get a sick feeling in the pit of his stomach, his heart fills with joy, not because of our sin, but because of our willingness to trust him with our sin.

Conclusion:

1. But if you need one more proof that God doesn't view confession the same way we do, look at what David does after his confession.
2. Psalm 51:7-12 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. 10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
3. David has just confessed that he has sinned directly against God. He has just confessed that what he did was evil and wicked, and then he

starts asking God for things.

4. Cleanse me. Wash me. Let me. Create in me. Don't cast me from your presence. Restore to me. Grant me.
5. Imagine how you would feel if someone you loved greatly, dropped their head, and confessed that they had done something directly to hurt you. That it was evil and wicked. That they had been hiding it from you for over a year. And then started asking you to do things for them.
6. We'd be tempted to commit murder.
7. But not God. God is a loving father who loves to give us good gifts.
8. I believe with all my heart. Not only because it's in God's word, but because I have experienced it for myself that confession is only scary because the enemy lies and tells us it is scary.
9. Confession is simply the pathway back to right standing with God and the restoration of our joy.
10. So, as we close this morning, I want to offer you the restoration of your joy in the Lord. **Have you lost your joy?**
11. Can we stand and begin to thank the Lord that we can come to him freely no matter what we might need to confess?
12. I am not suggesting that everyone has sin in their heart this morning, but I am asking all of us to come before the Lord and give him an opportunity to speak to our heart.
13. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you if you have sinned against the Lord.
14. If he shows you something confess the thing, but focus more on who you have sinned against rather than what you have done.
15. If he doesn't show you some sin, ask him to show you the source of your lack of joy.
16. Ask the Lord to restore the joy of his salvation.