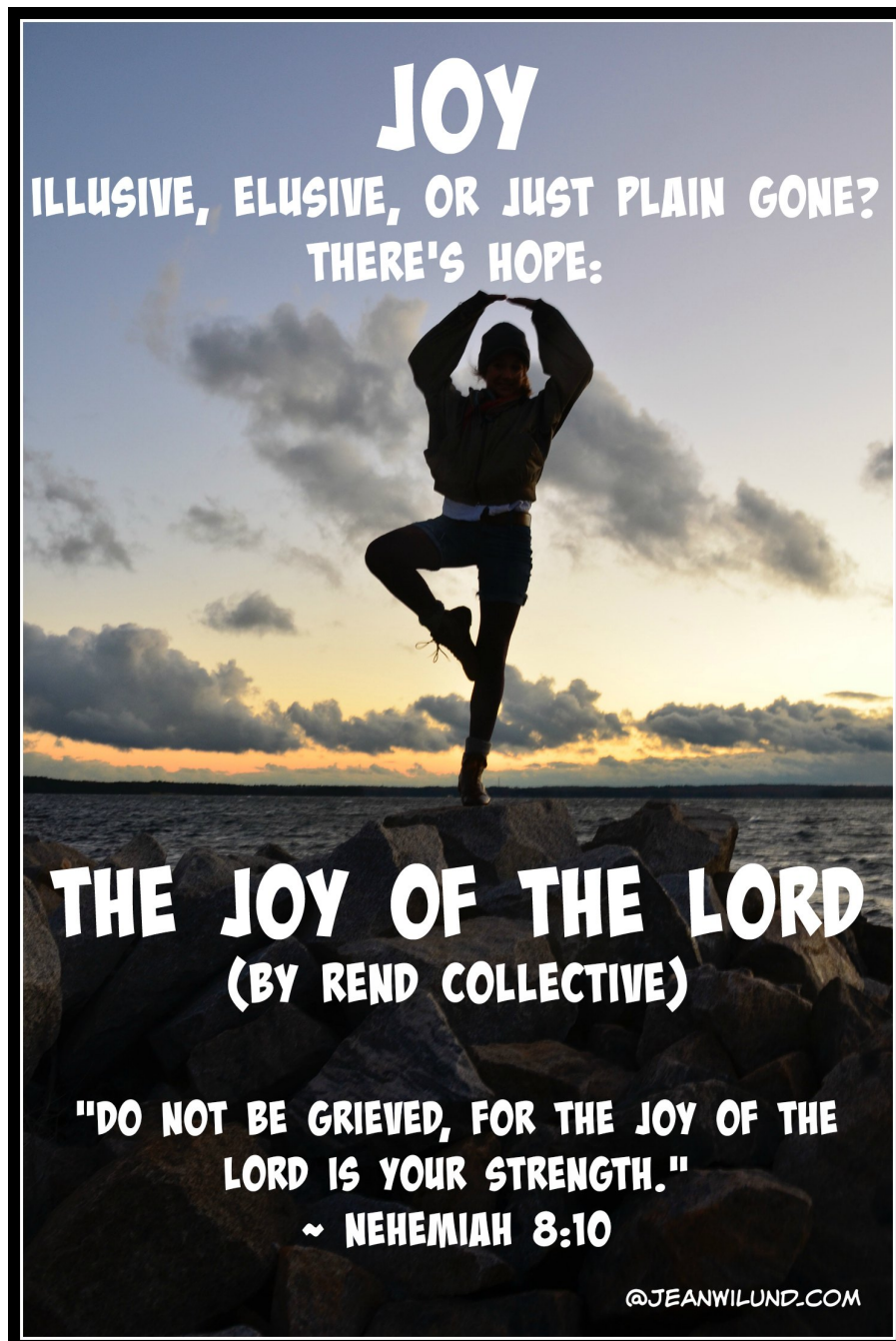


JOY – Illusive, Elusive, or Just Plain Gone? There's Hope: The Joy of The Lord (by Rend Collective)



Does your joy feel **illusive** – no more than a non-existent illusion?

Or maybe it feels **elusive**. It's visible, but out of reach.

Or maybe your joy is just plain gone.

No matter, be encouraged. There's hope.

***Do not be grieved,
for the joy of the LORD
is your strength.
~ Nehemiah 8:10***

Years ago, I found myself stuck in circumstances.

So I prayed. A lot.

But nothing changed, except my joy. It evaporated.

My patience began to run dry along with my joy.

I decided I was done praying.

I began praising instead.

I stopped focusing on my situation and focused on all the great things God has done from the beginning of time.

I praised Him for His unchanging, unfailing character – character trait by character trait.

I praised Him because He's worthy of praise all the time.

As my praises rose, I experienced a startling development: **my joy returned.**

I'd stumbled upon something.

Praise didn't change my circumstances, but it changed me.

It brought me **the joy of the Lord**. And it brought me **strength**.

As joy filled my heart and mind, I felt stronger in the midst of my circumstances.

My thinking became more clear.

Truth overcame fear and doubt. Confident assurance of His unconditional love overwhelmed me. Peace rose up knowing He simply will not fail us.

I felt motivated, empowered, and excited to follow the Lord. Wherever He led.

He led me to more **praise**, which led to more **joy**, which led to – *you guessed it* – more **strength**.

So, go ahead and pray for your trials and struggles, just make sure your praises far outweigh your prayers. The joy of the Lord springs from praise.

Our prayers say: Help, God! Because of our circumstances, we have no hope apart from You. (That's good stuff.)

Our praises say: Thank you, God! Because of who You are, we have all the help and hope we could ever need. (That's even better stuff.)

The Irish band **Rend Collective** with their fiddle-playing, foot-stomping, praise-inducing song **The Joy of the Lord** encourages us to make the best choice. This choice:

Step out on faith, walk on the waters of praise, grab the joy of the Lord by the hand and dance.

(After the music video, don't miss Gareth and Ali from *Rend Collective* share the story behind this song.)

Now the music video:

In the video below, Gareth and Ali from *Rend Collective* prove how choosing joy despite your circumstances gives you the strength to keep dancing even in the storm.

Listen to them share their powerful story:

“Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

~ Nehemiah 8:10

[God doesn't want us to just survive, but thrive. The #JoyOfTheLord is our strength. #RendCollective Click To Tweet](#)

Psalm 42 (NASB)

*⁵ Why are you in despair, O my soul?
And why have you become disturbed within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again **praise** Him
For the help of His presence.*

[JOY -- Illusive, Elusive, or Just Plain Gone? There's Hope: #TheJoyOfTheLord #Rend Collective Click To Tweet](#)