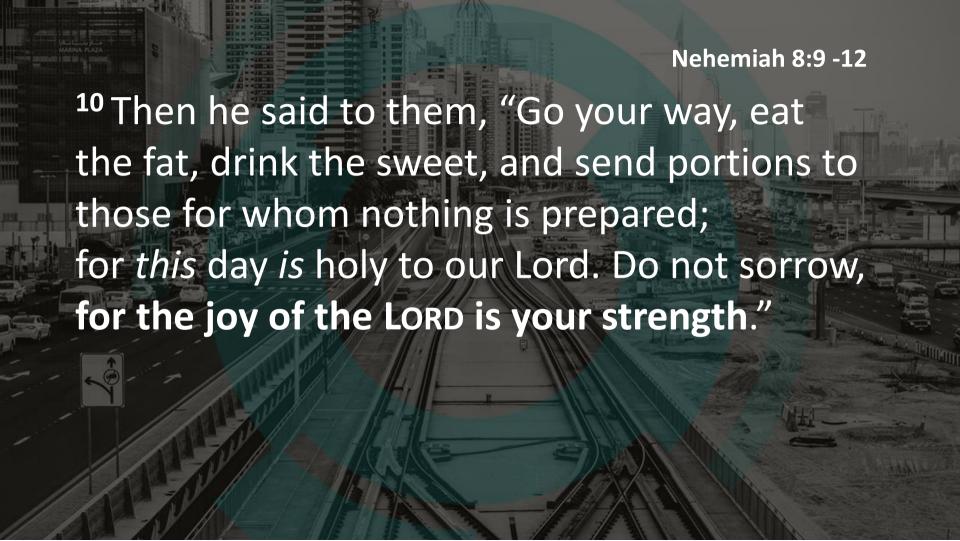


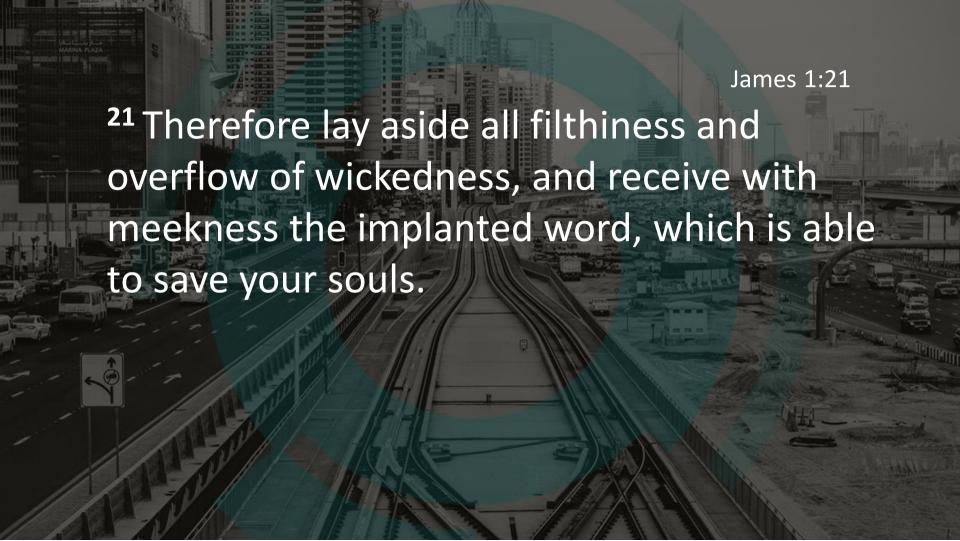


And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.

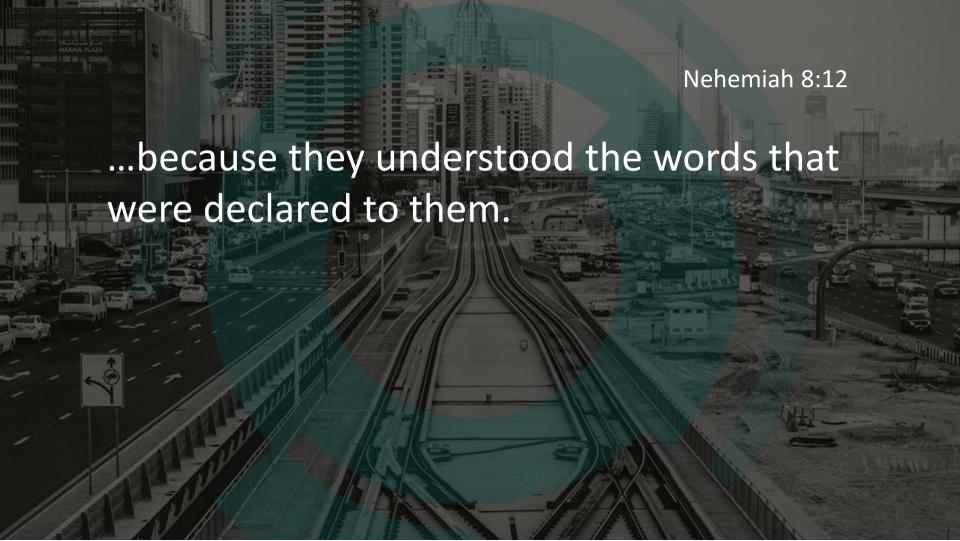


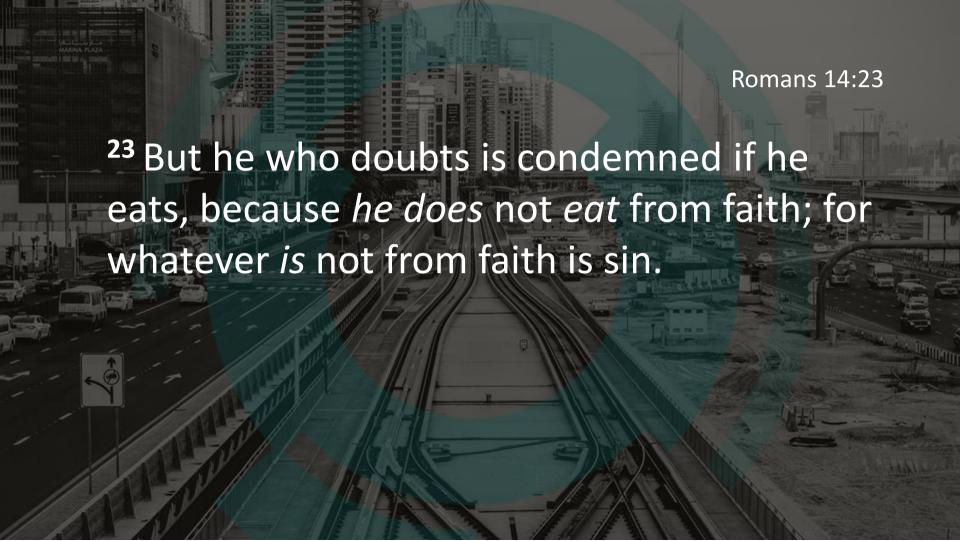
¹¹ So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved." 12 And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

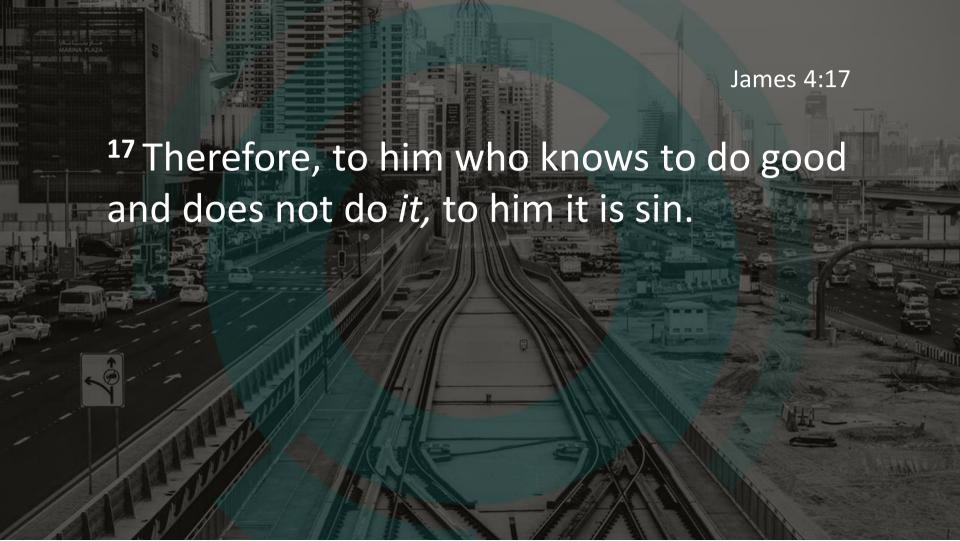




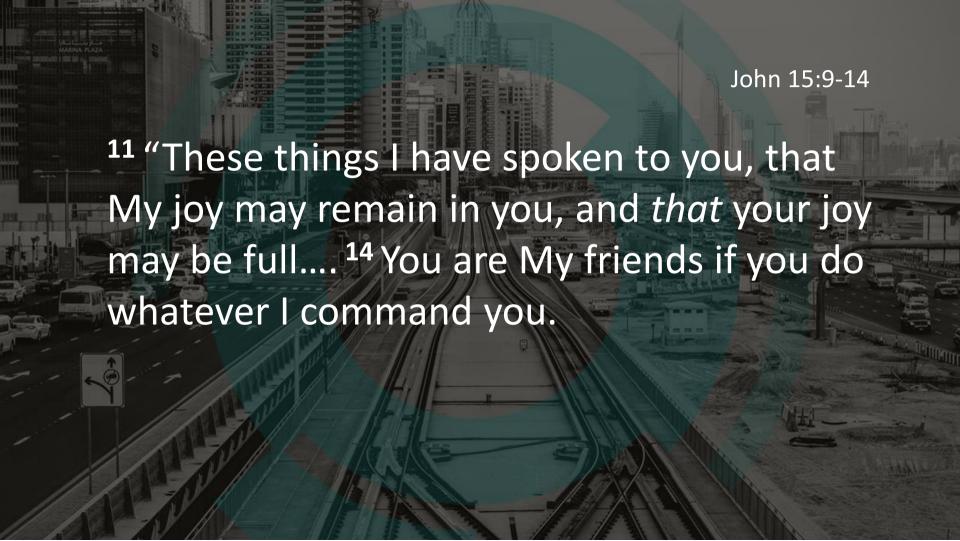








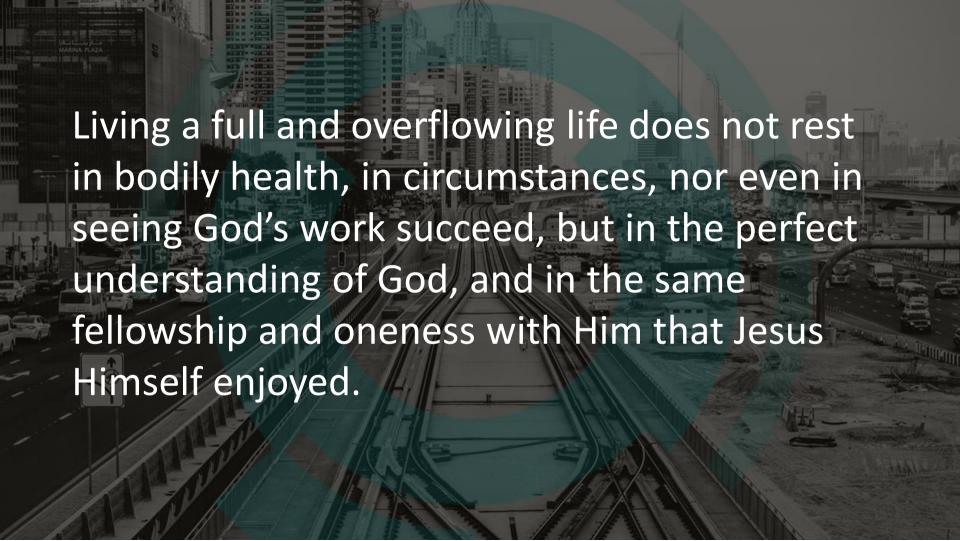






What was the joy that Jesus had? Joy should not be confused with happiness. In fact, it is an insult to Jesus Christ to use the word happiness in connection with Him. The joy of Jesus was His absolute self-surrender and self-sacrifice to His Father— the joy of doing that which the Father sent Him to do

"...who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross..." {Hew 12:2}"I delight to do Your will, O my God..." {Psalm 40:8}. Jesus prayed that our joy might continue fulfilling itself until it becomes the same joy as His. Have I allowed Jesus Christ to introduce His joy. to me?



But the first thing that will hinder this joy is the subtle irritability caused by giving too much thought to our circumstances. Jesus said, "...the cares of this world,...choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful" {Mark 4:19} And before we even realize what has happened, we are caught up in our cares. All that God has done for us is merely the threshold— He wants us to come to the place where we will be His witnesses and proclaim who Jesus is.

Have the right relationship with God, finding your joy there, and out of you "will flow rivers of living water" {John 7:38}Be a fountain through which Jesus can pour His "living water." Stop being hypocritical and proud, aware only of yourself, and live "your life...hidden with Christ in God" {Coll 3:38}A person who has the right relationship with God lives a life as natural as breathing wherever he goes

