**Need Joy This Christmas? Do These 4 Things…**

**-Pastor Dan**

***Advent***: “arrival” or “an appearing or coming into place.”

**Happiness:** Gk *markarios* is “a state of well-being; a pleasurable or satisfying experience.” 30x in Bible.

**Joy:** Gk *chara* is“to feel great delight; to be glad.” 300+ in the bible.

**#1) …Spend Time in God’s Word Daily - Abide In Christ.**

***26****In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel*

*to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,****27****to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.****28****The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”* Luke 1:26-28

*When your words came, I ate them;****they were my joy*** *and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty.* Jeremiah 15:16

***4Abide in Me****, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you* ***abide in Me****.****5****I am the vine, you are the branches; he who* ***abides in Me*** *and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.* John 15:4-7

**#2) …Let The Holy Spirit Fill You – Not Fear.**

***29****Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.****30****But the angel said to her, “****Do not be afraid****, Mary; you have found favor with God.****31****You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.****32****He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,****33****and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”* Luke 1:29-33

 See Galatians 5:22-23

**#3) …Ask God Clarifying Questions.**

***34****“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “****since I am a virgin****?”* ***35****The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called*

*the Son of God.****36****Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.****37****For no word from God will ever fail.”* Luke 1:34-37

**Messianic Prophecy:** Messiah born of Virgin birth. Miracle.

*Therefore the Lord himself will give youa sign: The virginwill conceive and give birth to a son, andwill call him Immanuel.* Isaiah 7:14

*For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.* Hebrews 2:17

**#4) …Follow God’s Plan, Purposes and Leading.**

***38****“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.* Luke 1:38

***10****If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.****11****I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that* ***your joy may be complete****.*

 John 15:10-11