

Overtaken

J *oy* Y

1 John 3:11-17

Luke 2:10 (HCSB)

But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great **joy** that will be for all the people:

Joy - Cara (chara)

Grace – Caris (charis)

The root word for both is chario, meaning to greet, to give, to make happy.



11 For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another, 12 unlike Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil, and his brother's were righteous.13 Do not be surprised, brothers, if the world hates you.



14 We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death.

15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.



16 This is how we have come to know love: He laid down His life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers.

17 If anyone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need but shuts off his compassion from him—how can God's love reside in him?





1. Joy is Reflected in Our Love

11 For this is the message you have heard from the beginning: we should love one another,

He reflected His love (grace/joy) to us from the very beginning of creation and His Advent.

“The whole aim of the gospel is the strengthening of love.... The words [‘love one another’] do not simply give the content of the message, but its aim, its purpose.”

Brooke Westcott



2. Joy is Seen in Our Change

¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life; because we love our brothers. The one who does not love remains in death.

Many Christians do not reflect joy because they do not reflect the change.

We have to be overtaken by the change for there to be a visible change.

John reminds us what we show is the extent to which we live the changed life.



3. Joy is Found in His Advent

¹⁶ This is how we have come to know love: He laid down His life for us.

“We have come to know” (*egnōkamen*) is in the perfect tense. It shows that the knowledge that is involved belongs to the historical event of Jesus Christ.

Agapē (“love”) cannot be derived from some intuitive grasp of an idea but is known in the historical event in which Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.



3. Joy is Found in His Advent

¹⁶ This is how we have come to know love: He laid down His life for us.

To know joy (“*chara*”) cannot be derived from some intuitive grasp of an idea or an emotion...

It is known in the historical event in which we call salvation.

This fact of joy is found in the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus.



4. Joy is Given in Our Sacrifice

...We should also lay down our lives for our brothers. ¹⁷ If anyone has this world's goods and sees his brother in need...

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13)

"It is not given to everyone to demonstrate his or her love by dying on another's behalf, but it is given to us all to demonstrate our love by living for others." Jerry Vine

Joy is found in our willingness to sacrifice, to others and to us.

**Have you been overtaken by the
change of Advent?**

**Have you been overtaken by the Joy of
Christ this Christmas Season?**

**Let us live in the grace, the love and
the joy of Christ today.**

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