



When the angels appeared to the Jewish shepherds in the fields around Bethlehem (Luke 2), they told those guys they were bringing a message of *great joy* that the whole world could get in on. Specifically, the Messiah, the Savior of the world had been born! Ever since then, people have been singing about the joy that Jesus gives. Think about it: *Joy to the World* is perhaps the most popular Christmas song of all time. And yet, finding joy can be elusive and holding onto it can be next to impossible, especially since we're living in a world where the circumstances of life conspire to crush joy right out of us. So, how do we get joy and hold onto it? For the answer, go back to the Christmas story itself. Look closely and see how key folks involved in the birth of Christ made specific choices that not only allowed them to experience *great joy*, but also enabled them to hang onto it when their situation tried to rob them of it. The choices they made then are the same choices we can make now to discover *joy* ... hold onto *joy* ... and restore *joy*.

## MARY'S STORY

(Luke 1:26-47)

The 1<sup>st</sup> Destroyer of Joy in Your Life:

\* Mary's Choice: When Mary was ...

## JOSEPH'S STORY

(Matthew 1:18-21)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Destroyer of Joy in Your Life:

\* Joseph's Choice: When Joseph was ...

## THE WISE MEN'S STORY

(Matthew 2:1-11)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Destroyer of Joy in Your Life:

\* The Wise Men's Choice: When they were ...

## A WORD TO YOU FROM PASTOR JOHN

As we close in on Christmas 2017, and look to the start of 2018, I want to humbly ask each of you to prayerfully consider the following:

- (1) Please invite your friends & family to our Christmas Eve worship gatherings on Sunday, December 24, at 10:00 AM & 6:00 PM. The flyer we've supplied for you is a simple reminder of the times of service that you can give to the people you invite. Folks are more responsive to an invitation at Christmas time than at any other time of the year. Don't miss the opportunity!
- (2) Please pray for our Christmas Eve services to be used by the Holy Spirit to lovingly help people in our communities to come to faith in Jesus and to help Christians be more faithful to Jesus.
- (3) Please get involved in NCFE's New Year's spiritual journey, **40 Days of Prayer**, starting January 7. You can sign-up to join a small group and purchase materials in the front lobby beginning today. The goal is that everyone who is part of NCFE will become part of the momentum to experience major spiritual breakthroughs happening at NCFE as together we become the *House of Prayer* Jesus wants us to be.