



Parents' Corner

God's Child

By Edwina Neely

“Joy in the Morning and Forevermore” is the theme for this newsletter edition. We are all familiar with the scripture, “*Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning*” (Psalm 30:5).

Joy is longed for by all of us. However, sometimes our children get joy and happiness confused. Happiness is more externally triggered based on other people, things, places, or events, whereas joy is more consistent and is cultivated internally. Joy comes when we can make peace with *who* we are, *why* we are, and *how* we are.

The Bible tells us, “...*the joy of the Lord is your strength*” (Nehemiah 8:10). So, when we are confident in knowing we belong to Jesus -- “I am God’s child” -- then we know our *who*. We are here to worship and proclaim God’s goodness. That is our *why*. The way our lives are now is the *how*. We can find joy when we know who we are, why we are here and how our lives are to be lived.

Pastor and author Rick Warren gave us the following definition of joy. I think he sums it up beautifully:

“Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all of the details in my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright and the determined choice to praise God in every situation.”

Let us now find joy in knowing our loving risen Savior is coming again! Until then let us rely on Jesus’ strength and keep joy in our hearts.