

Zephaniah 3:17, “The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.”

There are many verses in the Bible which talk about how the sin in this world grieves the Lord, how His heart breaks as one sinner dies rejecting Him. In a world filled with constant sorrow for our precious Lord, it is refreshing to know that we can please Him. Our love and service for God brings Him joy, rest and He sings about our love.

When I think about “rest in his love”, I am reminded of the rest I enjoy from my husband. He shows his love towards me in words and actions. I rest in the knowledge that he loves me with his entire heart and that I need never fear losing his love to another. This is the type of rest God enjoys as we demonstrate our love for Him and seek to love Him more each day.

As I began studying this verse, my heart’s desire was simply to love Him more. I wrote this thought in my Bible:

Lord, help me live my life in such a manner that when You sing about me, it is a song You enjoy singing.

When I think about how Your heart hurts every moment hundreds of sinners die rejecting Christ or as Christians prefer rebellion over obedience, my heart hurts for You. Lord, help me bring what pleasure I can to You through my love and life.

Here are a list of ways we can bring joy to God:

- Repentance, Luke 15:7,10
- Faith, Hebrews 11:5-6
- Fear of Him, Psalm 147:11
- Hope of His mercy, Psalm 147:11
- Meekness (Strength under control), Psalm 149:4
- Praying to Him about everything, full submission, Proverbs 15:8
- Speaking His words of righteousness; Gracious words of kindness, Proverbs 31:26

- Uprightness of my heart; Daily examination, 1 Chronicles 29:17,
Psalm 26:2, Psalm 19:13-14
- Adorn myself with His jewels of mercy, grace, etc. (Gifts of the Holy Spirit)
as an adorned bride waiting for the groom, Isaiah 62:5 & 61:10,
Galatians 5:22-23
- Serving Him; Soul winning and Discipleship, Hebrews 13:15-16,
John 10:37-38

I'm sure there are many other references I have missed. I challenge you to join me in creating a list of ways we can bring joy to God so we may seek to "put a smile on His face."

To remember the reference, simply think about the first part of the verse, "The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty..."

The LORD our God is represented by the number '3', the Trinity (the chapter reference). When I think of God's mighty power, I think of the power of '10'. And if you add '10' to His perfection, represented by the number '7', you have in your midst the mighty power of a perfect God '17' (the verse reference).