**Nehemiah 8:9-12, NKJV, “And Nehemiah, who *was* the governorEzra the priest *and* scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day *is* holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep.” For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this* day *is* holy to our Lord*. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”* So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, “Be still, for the day *is* holy; do not be grieved.” And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.”**

Old Testament's Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem with other Jewish captives to rebuild that city's shattered wall. He actually accomplished this in 55 days, quite a remarkable feat, since it had stayed in disrepair for 143 years! And, so it was, that after completing the daunting task, with excitement and joy, he encouraged his people to begin celebrating and rejoicing, understanding a very important Biblical principle:

***The joy of the LORD is your strength!!!***

**It is the same today.**

***Joy in the Lord = Your Strength!*** Today, this “Make Joy Your Strength” Monday, this second, be subsequently satisfied with your strong, successful, ‘striving-for-His-sweet-support,” as you sustain, ‘spell out,’ ‘shore up,’ and ‘strive toward’ your own "wall building" for the King......THEN.....

 ***Smile. Smirk. ‘Slap your knee.’ Sing. ‘Strike up the band.’ ‘Sound the trumpet.’……and……Shout.***

Remembering always that--

***The joy of the LORD is your strength!!!***

**Rejoice and be strong,**

Because ***(you have)*** understood the words of the king!…..

 **lindi**

**Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for happiness and joy and delight and fun and gladness. Thank You for giving me soooo much! Let me remember to help those that have less. Show me how to serve You best. Today, I pray for the church to “wake up” and “get going!” Be with my study of Your Word so that I can better understand Your important, hard, dividing truths. Draw me deeper into the delicious, delectable taste of Your “wall building”! Let me understand the “secrets” hidden in Your perfect Word. Forgive me. Take me out of sin and into service. Protect Your people, Israel, and Your city, Jerusalem! Bring quickly Your perfect Kingdom to earth, my soon-coming King! I love You always. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

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