

# **Joy Is Coming!**

**Submitted by Minister Nichole Wallace**

**John 16:20 (NIV)**

***“Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.”***

The pandemic has pushed many of us into a season of sorrow. The past several years has been marked with loss. Loss of life, loss of employment, loss of carefree living, loss in our lifestyle and positioning, just loss. All news appears to be bad news. In fact, like Evelyn from the classic movie *The Wizard of Oz*, when our emails chime and phones ring, most of us take a deep breath and pray that the message being delivered carries “No Bad News.”

Death tolls are rising worldwide from a virus people don't want to get vaccinated from or wear masks for. Wars and rumors of war across the world are ever present. Street wars across our nation continue to take the lives of the innocent. Sex trafficking, organ harvesting, police brutality, voter suppression, food insecurity have us scared and feeling hopeless. Many are suffering silently. Others are demonstrating their pain and we are so overwhelmed ourselves that we are missing their cry for help. Indeed, there is little to rejoice about and much to have a heart filled with heaviness.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter of John, Jesus encourages the disciples who are concerned with the threats of His pending crucifixion. Their hearts were burdened by their current situation and the position the authorities have taken towards Jesus. Yet Jesus reassured them that soon enough their grief would turn to joy. In His death, Jesus assured the disciples that the comforter was coming to advocate all wrongs and bring joy to the righteous. The good news is that comforter, the Holy Spirit, did come and rests in the hearts of every believer.

During these trying times, take hold of Jesus' message to call upon the Holy Spirit to guide you into truth despite the lies and schemes of the evil one. Call upon Him to comfort when you're grieving and help you turn your mourning into dancing. Ask the Savior to help you. Comfort strengthen and keep you; He is willing to help you. He will carry you through. When your spirit is heavy seek Him. Seek Him and you will find Him. Seek Him and all that you have need of (including joy) shall be added unto you.

Share with someone a time when you were down by the cares of the world, but you sought the Lord, the Comforter who came and restored your joy.