

Joy: A Pillar of Everything G-dly

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A. Joy in being created by G-d

1. Every living being has its way of praising its creator. The rustle of the leaves, the chirping of the birds, the flow of the water and the songs of the angels. "Every soul should praise the L-rd, Haleluakah." (Psalms 150)

B. Joy in the ability to Serve G-d

1. "Israel should rejoice in their Maker." (Psalms 149:2) Every Jew should rejoice in the happiness of G-d, who is happy and rejoices as a result of the dwelling fashioned for Him in this lowly world (through the performance of Mitzvot). (Tanya, Ch 33)

C. Joy in Serving G-d

1. Joy and gladness are in His place. (Chronicles I 16:27)
2. Serve the L-rd with joy. (Psalms 100:2)
3. Because you did not serve the L-rd your G-d with joy and a glad heart. (Deut. 28:47)

D. Joy of Adar

1. And for the Jews there was light, joy, gladness and honor. (Megilat Esther)
2. When Adar enters we increase in joy. (Mishna)
 - "Joy is not a Mitzvah but it leads one to the greatest heights. Sadness is not a sin but it can bring a person to the lowest depths" (Baal Shem Tov)
 - Joy breaks through all barriers. (Our sages)