



A merry heart does good, *like* medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.

Call to the Word / Pro 17:22







Things mom's never thought they'd have to experience.





Nine Stages of Motherhood





A Mother's Joy is One of God's Greatest Gifts

Sarah's Laughter (Gen 21:6-7) Hannah's Prayer (ISam 2:1-2)





A Mother's Joy is One of God's Greatest Gifts

Elizabeth's Joy (Luk 1:57-58) Mary's Song (Luk 1:46-49)





Joy isn't just a feeling—it's a gift from God that lifts us, heals us, and gives us strength, especially on the days when motherhood feels like a marathon with no finish line.



"A merry heart does good, *like* medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones."

Lit: "A joyful heart makes good healing, but a stricken spirit dries up the bones"





"...a crushed spirit dries up the bones"

Crushed: broken or oppressed. It describes a feeling of being brought low, discouraged, or defeated.





The "bone-dry" crushed spirit is the one that's lost the passion, drive, or energy to press into life's challenges.





God didn't design us to live drained, defeated, and bone-dry. He invites us to something deeper, something life-giving: a joyful heart isn't about pretending everything's perfect...





...it's about trusting the One who holds it all together. It's a joy that refreshes us from the inside out, even in the middle of the mess, the worries, and the unknowns.



"...a joyful heart brings healing"

Joyful Heart: conveys a sense of cheerfulness and inner happiness.

Good Medicine: refers to something that restores health or provides relief.



A joyful heart must be cultivated, like a garden:

You must intentionally practice habits and mindsets that grow joy.. it doesn't just happen automatically—it needs patience, consistency, and care to thrive.





Intentionally practice habits and mindsets that grow joy...

Php 4:8; 2Pe 1:3-4





Develop an Attitude of Gratitude 1Th 5:18

It's not about pretending the moment is fun. It's about choosing to acknowledge God's presence and goodness within it. That's where peace—and even joy—can sneak in.



Pursue Progress over Perfection

Php 3:12-14

Joy flourishes where there's room for mistakes, grace for the journey, and freedom to keep moving forward.





Stop Competing / Start Celebrating 1Co 1:12, 3:5, 4:1

Celebrating others makes room for more connection, more peace, and more joy—because you're no longer trying to win a race God never asked you to run.



Pursue Passions with Purpose

Col 3:23

The purposeful use of your passion is life-giving—not draining. And when your heart is full, you show up for your people with more energy, more presence, and more love. Medicine for Moms / Pro 17:22





Smile & See the Silly

Pro 15:13 – "A glad heart makes a happy face..."
Joy grows in homes (and hearts) where laughter is allowed, even welcomed. Smiling and seeing the silly reminds us: it's okay to enjoy this imperfect, beautiful life.





Stay Steadfast in the Savior

Ps 16:11 – Spend time in His presence Jhn 15:11 – Listen to Him through His Word Jhn 16:22-24 – Talk to Him, especially about His Word...trust, depend, expect, thank





"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." (Jhn 15:11) -because-

"A joyful heart is like good medicine" (Pro 17:22)



