

## ***Returning to the Joy Zone***

*- a well defined region, an encircling band of distinctive character, a belt*

- *Pray for Edgar, David & Guatemala Team*

### **I. The Divine Plan for Abundant Opportunity**

#### **A. The “Your Life Counts” Storyline**

**Jer 29.11 NIV** For I **know** the **plans** I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans **to prosper** you and **not to harm** you, plans **to give you hope\*** and a **future.‡**

#### **B. Jesus Came to Restore the Plot**

**John 10:10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have **life** and have it **abundantly**.

**Mark 10.45** For even **the Son of Man came** not to be served but **to serve**, and **to give his life** as a **ransom** for many.”

### **II. Abundant Life - the GOOD Zone**

#### **A. Perception of Love – Development of Joy**

1. Kidnapped by Sin - Ransomed by Love
  2. Humans are **hard-wired for UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**
    - a. first thing baby recognizes is the **FACE**
    - b. scanning for **ACCEPTANCE** (smile)
      - perceived electro-magnetically & chemically (field)
      - perceived visually by **smile**
      - **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE** (welcome)
- “I’m glad you are here in my presence”**  
Child learns to perceive the **FACE** of God in mom’s face  
Chemical response develops **JOY CENTER**  
**JOY is the FOUNDATION for RECEIVING LOVE**  
We **ATTACH** to **JOY** - **TRANSFORMATION**  
**BECOMING HUMAN is learning to return to Joy**

## B. Finding Freedom - Returning to the State of Joy

1. His **PRESENCE** is the Path of Life into JOY

**Ps 16.11** You make **known** to me the path of **life**;  
in your **presence** (**face**) there is fullness (**abundance**) of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures **forevermore**.

**NET** You lead me in the path of life;  
**I experience absolute joy** in your **presence**;  
you **always** give me **sheer delight**.

2. Joy is the BASIS of **STRENGTH**

**Neh 8.10c** ... the joy of the LORD is your strength.

3. Joy **FREES** us from the tyranny of **shame**.

**Heb 12.2 NKJV** looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of  
*our* faith, who **for the joy that was set before Him endured**  
the cross, **despising the shame**, and has **sat down** at the right  
hand of the throne of God.

## C. Perceiving Human Nature

**Ps 8.1 NLT** O LORD, our Lord, your majestic name fills the  
earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens.

2 You have taught **children and infants**  
to tell of your strength, (*lit. - lay a foundation of strength*)  
**silencing** your **enemies** and all who oppose you.

3 When I look at the night sky and see the work of your  
fingers—  
the moon and the stars you set in place—

4 what are **mere mortals** that you should **think about them**,  
**human beings** that you should **care for them**?

5 Yet you made them **only a little lower than God**  
and **crowned them with glory and honor**.

6 You **gave them charge of everything you made**,  
putting all things under their authority—

## III. Renewal & Transformation

## we enter this reality ZONE with THANKSGIVING

### CROWNED (Encircled by) GLORY & HONOR

**wisdom** 1Cor 1:30

**love** 1John 4:16

**vitality (eternal life)** Rom 6:23 gift of God

**absolute joy (blessed happiness)** John 15:11

- 1 John 3.1 NKJ **Behold what manner** of love the Father has bestowed on us, (NIV **How great** is the love the Father has **lavished** on us,)that we should be called **children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.
- 2 **Beloved, now** we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
- 3 And everyone who has **this hope** in Him **purifies** himself, just as He is **pure**

### Rooted & Grounded in Love

Eph 3.14 For this reason I bow my knees before the **Father**,  
15 from whom **every family** in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the **riches of his glory** he may grant you to be **strengthened with power** through his Spirit in your **inner [human] being**, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts **through faith**—that you, being **rooted and grounded in love**, 18 may have **strength to comprehend** with all the saints what is the **breadth and length and height and depth**, 19 and to **know the love** of Christ that **surpasses knowledge**, that you may be **filled with all the fullness** of God.

20 Now to him who is **able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think**, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**The INFINITE ABUNDANCE locked up in Creation is waiting for the glorious liberty of the Children of God.**

**We ENTER His Gates with Thanksgiving!**

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.