

This book is the recipe for joy. Not the fleeting happiness kind of joy, but an enduring joyful state of mind regardless of circumstance. Discover God's not-so-secret secret to a glorious way to live.

**Resolute Joy:
And the Truth from Which it Springs**
By David J. Pontzer

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RESOLUTE

Joy



And the Truth from Which it Springs

Foreword by Pastor Lydia Bricker

DAVID J. PONTZER

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Introduction

*The bricks of Biblical truth
build a joyful state of mind.*

Solomon wrote nearly all of the Proverbs. He was busy doing this about 3000 years ago. Of the thousands of proverbs he spoke³, 915 of them are preserved in the Bible for us today. Each of these pithy verses declares a God-inspired truth. My editor would shred Solomon's draft. Where is the storyline, the character development, the intrigue, and the satisfying conclusion? No publisher would touch his kingly prose, despite the fact that the Bible is the best-selling book of all time by a huge margin.

Sprinkled throughout this book is a collection of more recently penned "Pontzer Proverbs." They are my version of some of the critically important Biblical truths as they relate to joy.

Perhaps comparing this compilation with that of Solomon's all-time best-selling version is a bit presumptuous. Or, maybe we all have a few proverbs to write, and most of us don't get around to it. Or we share them at the dinner table. Your family and neighbors surely know your proverbs from years of doing life together.

Jesus started His ministry with this first sentence: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel."⁴ The Greek word for Gospel is *Euangelion*. The root, *angelos*, means news. Not just any news, but big news, a proclamation, like a new king has been crowned, a new president has been elected, or a new covenant has been established with the Creator of the universe. It means the kind of news that is life-changing. The prefix, *eu*, means good, well, or pleasant. What Jesus was saying was, "Believe this big news that brings joy."

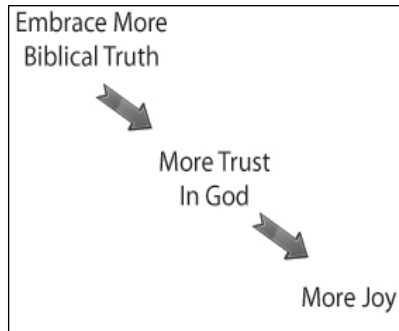
The truths we embrace, wherever they come from, form the framework in our minds that governs what we think, how we feel, and what we do. We call this framework our disposition, character, or heart posture. We are, of course, in control of what we believe and

therefore own the disposition we have constructed for ourselves. Your character is uniquely yours, built on the foundation of the truths you have chosen to believe.

A heart full of enduring joy is the disposition of those who have chosen God’s Word as the source of their truth. A life of seeking this truth and living in obedience to it is the pursuit of a friendship and a “fearship” with God. The outcome is a life of glorious, increasing, and enduring joy.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will **know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**” (John 8:31-32 ESV, emphasis by the author)

The sunrise of a resolute joy in one’s character begins with the decision to repent of sin and take that first step to follow Jesus as Lord and Savior. After choosing to believe the “big news that brings joy,” your joy deepens as you embrace more of the truth about creation. There is quite a bit of truth to learn, understand, and engage with. God’s word, combined with the experiences and relationships He provides in your life, plus the whispers of the Holy Spirit, is the source from which to draw truth. Those on this journey know that learning truths is a joy unto itself.



You may be reading this and shaking your head because you do not believe the Gospel, but still think you have some measure of joy.

Introduction

I encourage you to consider giving the truth packed into this book a test ride. The genuine, enduring, Biblical version of joy awaits.

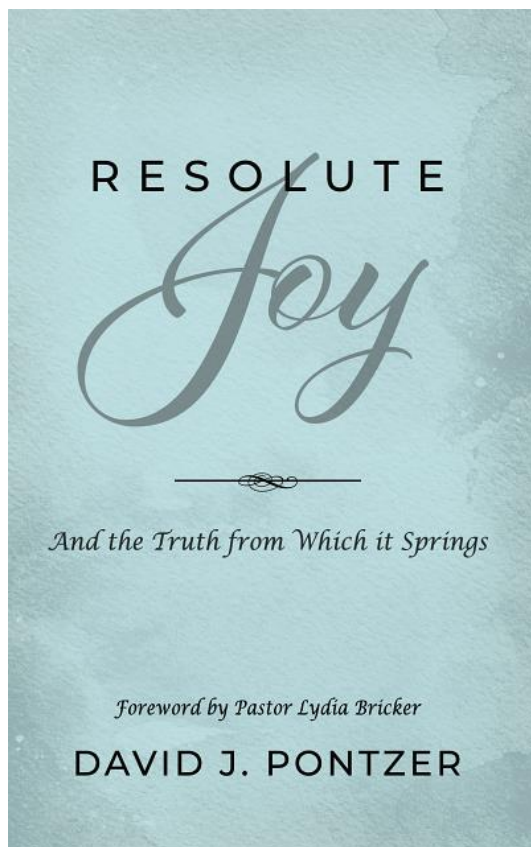
Jesus said, “If you **keep my commandments**, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that **your joy may be full.**” (John 15:10-11 ESV, emphasis by the author)

This book is organized into five chapters. Chapter one is about how God created this particular universe, complete with joy. Chapter two is where the acquisition of this joy begins for all of us, with a step of faith. Chapter three addresses how a relationship with God transforms the mind. In this process, we continue to discover absolute truth and learn to walk in supernatural obedience to it. Chapter four is about how engaging in community is essential for building the enduring joy God has made available to us.

Chapter five is a collection of stories from my own life that I have included with the hope that, in reading them, the joy in your heart will be built even stronger.

Each article begins with a “Pontzer Proverb” and ends with a truth to embrace in a shaded box.

Enjoy the read. *Resolute Joy* is yours to apprehend.



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