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## Melbourne Church of Christ

"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually while sharing Jesus and serving others."

> **Our Strength** by Allen Hahn

In Nehemiah chapter eight, people were gathered in an open square to hear God's word. Ezra read all morning long as people listened attentively (8:3).

The response of the people would lead us to conclude they saw glaring faults and failures in their lives. God's word does that to us sometimes. It's like a mirror in which we come face to face with our imperfections. There is value in repentance when that happens.

Verse 9 says, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep." And, vs. 10 adds, "Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Scripture affirms again and again the connection between joy and God. Ps. 5:11 tells us, "... let all those rejoice who put their trust in You ..." Ps. 9:2, "I will be glad and rejoice in You . .." Ps. 16:11, "In Your presence is fullness of joy." You could add Ps. 32:11, 33:1, and 40:16 to the list.

Where could we look for strength? In possessions? In people? In politics? Paul knew the answer, "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord." With emphasis, he added, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice" (Phil. 3:1, 4:4).

This is not to say we find no joy in good health, good friends, and good food. But, it is to say that real and lasting joy comes from the One who is our true strength. Even now, in present distress, we can say with joy, "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Rom. 8:37).

Where are you seeking your strength and joy?

SONG LEADER OPENING PRAYER CLOSING PRAYER	TBA	<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b> TBA TBA TBA	
Тн	e Lord's Su	PPER	
	Self-Served		
Bible	Quiz: Hebrev	vs 13:7-12	
	• those who of God t	over you, who hav to you"	'e
2. Who does v	erse two say has	an unchanging nature	?
3. "Do not be c	arried about wit "	h various and strange	
	no continue to liv a right to partici	e under the Law of pate in the new	
	se: Jesus suffered He might sanctif n blood.		

Military: Derek Love, T	yler Talkington,	, A.J. Talkir	ngton, B	lake Johnson
Officers: Steven & Sherr Caeden Wolfe	ry Davidson, Jos	sh Morehea	d, Jamie	Irvin, Tyler Webb,
Joe Guiltner Tracy Thomas E Bill Roland Hay Bill Wiseman Debb Eutha Vest Tommy Buddy James	yce Newbrey Jane Sullivan Brooke Partin yden Phillips ie Nicholson Washington Ivy Jo Slade lotte Cooper Bob &	Toni Law	ooper aston Smith King owler rrence Clark	Joanna Smith Wayne Crosby James Nicholson Joanne Westor Phil Haagensor Dale Smith Andrew Weave Cecilia Broughtor
Nursing Home: Lucille Jimmy	Linn, Audrey E Gillihan, Emma			skinds, Holly Stroud
		a Jean Coop		skinds, Holly Stroud
	Gillihan, Emma	a Jean Coop	er	skinds, Holly Stroud
Jimmy Carolyn Younger 3 <sup>rd</sup> Levi Taylor 12 <sup>th</sup>	Gillihan, Emma May Bir Danny Beebe Kollin Hoskin	<b>thdays</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> ds 12 <sup>th</sup>	er Lydia Tristar	Sipe 10 <sup>th</sup> 1 Elms 15 <sup>th</sup>
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Proverbs 29:25, "Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe."