Psalm 126:3 – “The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.”

As we trudge through the business of the holiday season, let’s not forget the One who came to give us abundant life and to give us His endless supply of joy. Jesus was a man of joy and He wants our lives to be filled with that joy as well. Yes joy, even in the midst of chaos and all the many distractions of this time of year.

This afternoon, we loaded up and headed to Atlanta to see our oldest son Nathan play middle school basketball. He had ridden up earlier on the bus with the rest of the team. And then we get stuck in snarling traffic for over an hour. We walk into the gym frustrated with only 4minutes and 38 seconds left in the game.

We watch intensely as both teams fight hard down to the very end. Landmark is losing by one point with only 4.1 seconds left and the other team has possession of the ball. As they attempt to pass the ball in, Nathan tips it away from the other team and streaks down the court and throws up a desperation shot from about twelve feet away. The buzzer goes off as the ball bounces off the backboard and into the net for a last second buzzer shot victory.

My wife and I went absolutely nuts jumping up and down screaming! Hey, that’s our son! In the midst of our celebration, I realize our seven year old son Josiah is crying. I’m asking what is wrong and I can’t understand what he is saying because he’s crying. Finally on about the fifth attempt to tell me why he was crying, I understood him to say, “Me filled with joy.”

That’s the way all of us should be every moment of every day as we think about the grace and mercy and love and compassion of Jesus. Let’s spend this holiday season filled with His joy!