

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

LESSON 02 - JOY

Text: Galatians 5:22-23

Introduction:

1. There is a contrast made between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.
2. The great battle of our lives here upon Earth is between the flesh and the Spirit.
3. Ultimately, this is a conflict over who will reign and rule in our lives – man (the flesh) or God (the Spirit).
4. When we choose to walk after the Spirit, we will bear His fruit in our lives.
5. “The fruit of the Spirit is love.”

1. The Meaning of Joy

A. Definitions of joy...

1. The Greek word for joy is *chara* (χαρά) meaning, “cheerfulness, gladness, calm delight.”
2. The word occurs 59 times in the New Testament and is translated as “joy” 51 times in the KJV.
3. It is also translated as “joyous,” “joyfulness,” “joyfully,” “joyful,” “gladness,” and “greatly” (literally, “rejoices with joy”).

B. What joy is...

1. Joy is not just an emotion (Psalm 16:11).
2. Joy is not simply happiness – dependent upon circumstances.
3. Joy is a quality of life based upon a relationship with God.

C. The source of joy...

1. “Joy is a deep happiness born of a father-child relationship. ...This joy includes the sense of both fulfilling and having fulfilled the Father’s will. ‘Joy’ ...refers to that resultant relationship between God and man which is based upon grace and appropriated through the obedience of the gospel. ...Joy is a quality, and not simply an emotion, which characterizes the Christian life.” Garland Elkins
2. Joy comes from salvation.
 - a. At its announcement (Luke 2:8-11; Matthew 2:10)
 - b. At its preaching (Matthew 13:20, 44)
 - c. At one’s obedience (Acts 8:8, 35-39)
 - d. At one’s return (Psalm 51:12; Luke 15:7, 10)
 - e. At its spreading (Acts 15:3)
3. Joy comes from association.
 - a. From fellowship with God (1 John 1:3-4; John 15:10-11; 16:23-24)
 - b. From fellowship with the saints (2 Corinthians 1:24; 7:13; Philippians 4:1)
4. Joy comes in tribulation.
 - a. Because of our example (Hebrews 12:1-4)
 - b. Because of the Truth (1 Thessalonians 1:6)
 - c. Because of our work (Acts 20:24; 2 Corinthians 8:2)
 - d. Because of our growth (James 1:2-4; Hebrews 12:11)
 - e. Because of our hope (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

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5. Joy comes in anticipation.
 - a. Joy is our reward (Matthew 25:21, 23)
 - b. Joyful will be our home (Revelation 21:1-5)

II. The Connection to Love

- A. Joy refers to “that peculiar and wonderful quality which, present in the life, transmutes everything into light and peace and happiness; ...which sings in the midst of a November fog just as much as on a glorious June day” (G. Campbell Morgan).
- B. It is love that produces such a perception and outlook on life!
 1. “Beloved” – 33 times in the Song of Solomon
 2. God’s love for His “vineyard” Israel (Isaiah 5:1-4; 51:3, 11; 52:9; 61:3)
 3. Hosea’s love for Gomer (Hosea 1:2-3; 2:5, 19-20; 3:1-3; Rom. 9:25)
- C. Joy and love are often joined together in Scripture (Psalm 5:11; Zeph. 3:17).
 1. God’s love for Jesus (Matthew 3:17)
 2. Paul’s love for the Philippians (Phil. 4:1)
 3. Paul’s love for Philemon (Phm. 1:7)
 4. The Christian’s love for God (1 Peter 1:6-9)
- D. Job teaches a fundamental, powerful truth: suffering does not mean that God’s love has failed.
- E. Jesus proves that God’s love is eternal in scope and in reality.
- F. Thus, because of the love of God and for God, the Christian can live with joy in any situation of life!
- G. Joy is love’s consciousness!

III. The Development of Joy

- A. One must be “in the Lord” – a Christian (Phil. 4:4).
- B. One must live by the Word of God (Matt. 13:44; Acts 2:41; 8:8, 39).
- C. One must return to the Lord when wrong (Luke 15:1-7).
- D. One must endure the trials of life (James 1:2-4).
- E. One must tell others of God’s love (Psalm 126; John 4:35-36).
- F. One must focus on Heaven (Acts 20:22-24; 2 Timothy 4:6-8).
- G. One must never forget the love of God (John 3:16).