

# *The Fruit of JOY!!*

**Galatians 5:22**

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

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Introduction:

- Happiness is.....?
- Happiness is elusive, hard to find in this world.
- Happiness is found in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
  - When we initially come to faith in Christ, we experience joy.—Acts 8:39
  - Joy flows from our continuing love for Christ.—1 Peter 1:8

## *The Fruit of JOY!!*

### **A. The Distinction between “happiness” and “joy”**

1. “Happiness” is based on favorable human circumstances.
2. “Joy” is an attitude of the heart based on spiritual realities, and is a fruit of the Spirit.

### **B. The Foundation for Joy**

1. Our God is a God of JOY—Ps. 16:11; 43:4
2. Christ desires for us to experience His joy by being filled with the Spirit—John 15:11; 17:13
3. Being joyful, though, is OUR choice. Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16

### **C. The Production of JOY: How can we experience Spirit-produced joy?**

#### **1. Obedience to God’s Word brings joy.**

- a. When we obey the command to love, we will experience joy.—John 15:11
- b. When we obey God’s Word even though we might suffer, we will experience joy—1 Thess. 1:5  
1 John 1:4
- c. Nothing robs us of joy like unconfessed, covered-up sin. Example: David
  - 1) He was miserable when he covered up his sin.—Ps. 32:3-4
  - 2) His joy was restored when he repented and no longer covered up his sin—Ps. 51:7-12
- d. Nothing brings greater joy to a pastor or parent than to see their children obeying the truth. 3 John 4

#### **2. Submission to God’s Will brings joy!**

- a. Sometimes God’s will includes suffering and trials.—1 Peter 4:19
- b. To be joyful in times of suffering, we need divine perspective to see beyond today.
  - 1) The disciples “sorrow” turned to “joy”—John 16:20-22
  - 2) Jesus as the prime example of one who had divine perspective in suffering. Hebrews 12:2
  - 3) We need divine perspective in our suffering—James 1:2-4; Matt. 5:11-12; Heb. 10:34

#### **3. Petitions to the Father brings joy!**

- a. “Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full”—John 16:23-24
- b. God does not honor every request that we make.
  - 1) He does not answer selfish prayers—James 4:3
  - 2) He answers requests that are in line with His will and Word—1 John 5:14-15
- c. While God is ultimately concerned with our holiness, He is also interested in our happiness. Matt. 7

#### **4. Service in God’s Work brings joy!**

- a. We experience joy in serving Jesus together.—John 4:36
- b. We experience personal joy...
  - 1) In our personal accomplishments for the Lord—Galatians 6:4
  - 2) As we give generously to God’s Work—2 Corinthians 9:6-7