

*“Enjoying Invisible Fruit”*

*Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Peter 1:6-8*

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23 NKJ)

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,<sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,<sup>8</sup> whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, (1 Peter 1:6-8 NKJ)

I. *Christians have a JOY that the rest of the world cannot see or understand –*

1. *The New birth makes us alive to the kingdom of God and its riches –*

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJ)  
Yet, true Christians do see the Kingdom of God!

2. *The kingdom of God is different and better than this world we see –*

<sup>17</sup> for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom 14:17 NKJ)

A. *Jesus tells us Heavenly things are lasting –*

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;<sup>20</sup> "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:19-20 NKJ)

B. *It is the Kingdom we are to seek first –*

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33 NKJ)

3. *That “joy in the Holy Spirit” “righteousness and peace” which is the kingdom of God is better than, more delicious, more wonderful than “eating and drinking” – this is why Christians can:*

**My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, (James 1:2 NKJ)**

**And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; (Romans 5:3 NKJ)**

**In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, (1 Peter 1:6 NKJ)**

**whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, (1 Peter 1:8 NKJ)**

A. *Note these were ordinary Christians, not apostles; these were people who loved a Christ they did not see!*

B. *This is a joy for us, a peace for us, fruit of the Spirit for us –*

C. *This is a joy Christians can have in all situations –*

**Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4 NKJ)**

*Wherever we go, bluebirds sing, flowers bloom and the grass gets green ... Wherever we go, the bees behave... In the treetops squirrels smile and wave - Newsboys*

D. *Throughout the history of the church we have the loud and joyous witness of Christians even in the worst situations -1 Peter 1:6-8*

II. *Christian joy shines brightest, seems fullest, even in the darkest situations –*

**In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials – 1 Peter 1:6**

*I could not find the exact quote but I remember C.S. Lewis wrote something like – ‘Miracles and martyrdom tend to travel in or are found in the same places’*

*This fruit was definitely not limited to the apostles or the apostolic age, even in Peter’s statement 1 Peter 1:8 these were people who had not seen Jesus, they did not have Peter’s privilege, yet they lacked nothing of Peter’s spiritual power in their joyous praise in the midst of persecution!*

- *David Coker – died of cancer at 17, yet died with great joy*
- *The Moravians in a storm at sea*
- *Jolly Joe (Idi Amin’s right hand man in Uganda) until he was converted to Christ --- died at Amin’s own hand being beat with hammers, yet praised Christ louder and more joyously as the beatings got worse!*
- *The prisoners at the River Kwai WW2, hating even each other, fighting for food, etc... until one man died according to Jesus’ words of John 15:13*

<sup>13</sup> "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. (Joh 15:13 NKJ)

- *Betsy Ten Boom who died in a German prison camp yet did so praising God! –*

in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJ)

- Isaiah 3- 4

<sup>16</sup> Moreover the LORD says: "Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, And walk with outstretched necks And wanton eyes, Walking and mincing as they go, Making a jingling with their feet, <sup>17</sup> Therefore the Lord will strike with a scab The crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, And the LORD will uncover their secret parts." <sup>18</sup> In that day the Lord will take away the finery: The jingling anklets, the scarves, and the crescents; <sup>19</sup> The pendants, the bracelets, and the veils; <sup>20</sup> The headdresses, the leg ornaments, and the headbands; The perfume boxes, the charms, <sup>21</sup> and the rings; The nose jewels, <sup>22</sup> the festal apparel, and the mantles; The outer garments, the purses, <sup>23</sup> and the mirrors; The fine linen, the turbans, and the robes.

<sup>24</sup> And so it shall be: Instead of a sweet smell there will be a stench; Instead of a sash, a rope; Instead of well-set hair, baldness; Instead of a rich robe, a girding of sackcloth; And branding instead of beauty. <sup>25</sup> Your men shall fall by the sword, And your mighty in the war. <sup>26</sup> Her gates shall lament and mourn, And she *being* desolate shall sit on the ground.

<sup>NKJ</sup> Isaiah 4:1 And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, "We will eat our own food and wear our own apparel; Only let us be called by your name, To take away our reproach." <sup>2</sup> In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth *shall be* excellent and appealing For those of Israel who have escaped. (Isa 3:16-2 NKJ)

III. *Yet, we should REJOICE in Christ at all times –*

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4 NKJ)

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:12-13 NKJ)

1. *We should live in all situations to the glory of God –*  
Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJ)

2. *Good times are often harder to handle spiritually than are trials*

–  
"When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. <sup>11</sup> "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, <sup>12</sup> "lest-- *when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them;* <sup>13</sup> "and *when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;* <sup>14</sup> "when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; <sup>15</sup> "who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, *in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock;* <sup>16</sup> "who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end-- <sup>17</sup> "then you say in your heart, *My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.* <sup>18</sup> "And you shall remember the LORD your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day. <sup>19</sup> "Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. (Deuteronomy 8:10-19 NKJ)

A. *Good times tend toward our forgetting God*

B. *Good times tend toward pride*

C. *Pride / idolatry lead to destruction -*

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6 NKJ)

IV. *Joy in Christ, of the Spirit, is "full of glory"*

... rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory. (1 Peter 1:6-8 NKJ)