

Subject: *Bearing Spiritual Fruit – JOY*

Scripture: *Galatians 5:22-23*

Joy is second on the list of the fruit of the Spirit, and it follows love. So we know it is a very important part of the Christian life. Every believer should have joy. This is a matter of personality; it's a matter of spirituality and vitality. Where the Holy Spirit is, there is joy. Where the Holy Spirit is, there is life. The Christian life is a joy-filled life. Just look at few verses and you can see how important joy is.

Romans 14:17 *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.* Joy is an essential part of God's kingdom.

Romans 15:13 *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit.* Joy is a blessing that God gives to all believers.

The Bible tells us that joy is a part of the kingdom of God; joy is produced by the Holy Spirit; and God is the one who fills us with joy and peace in believing

Psalms 16:11 *...in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

So it should not surprise us that God fills us with joy even now. It would surprise people of the world that being a dedicated Christian is a life full of joy. Many people don't think of the Christian life as being very enjoyable. They think of all the things they couldn't do and all the things they might have to give up.

1. The source of Christian joy

A. Our connection to Christ

There is great joy when we come to Christ for salvation by grace through faith. The word for joy (*chara*) is very close to the word for grace (*charis*). There is nothing like the joy of having Christ as our Lord and Savior and having our sins forgiven.

Psalms 32:11 *Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.*

Acts 8:34-39 *...and he went on his way rejoicing.*

The joy of our salvation is greater than any other joy.

Luke 10:17-20

The joy of salvation has a beginning, but it has no ending.

John 15:11 *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

The joy of salvation does not come and go. It doesn't depend on circumstances.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.
1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice evermore.
1 Peter 1:3-9

B. Our commitment to Scripture

Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Psalms 19:7-10

Psalms 119:14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.
Psalms 119:111 Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.
Psalms 119:162 I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

*1 John 1:3-4*³ *That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.* ⁴ *And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.*

2. The satisfaction of Christian joy

Christian joy is much different than the world's happiness. As you know, happiness depends on what happens. But Christian joy is not fickle. Happiness is like a thermometer. It reflects conditions at the time. But Christian joy is like a thermostat. It regulates conditions. Christian joy doesn't change our circumstances, but it changes us.

*Habakkuk 3:17-18*¹⁷ *Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:* ¹⁸ *Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.*

Hebrews 10:34 *For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.*

Do you have Christian joy? In John 15 Jesus spoke of fruit, more fruit, and much fruit. There are different levels of joy. Where is your joy level? Are you full of joy? Someone said the way to find out what you're full of is to ask: when someone or something jostles you, what spills out? That's what you're full of.

Psalms 51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation. David prayed that and repented. Have you lost the joy of salvation? Did you ever have it?