

Saturday, July 25, 2026

From the talk last Sunday, we said to:

Look inward - are there any obstacles to joy in your life? Weeds that need to be pulled so the fruit of joy can grow?

Look upward - can you see God rejoicing over you with an over-the-top, ecstatic kind of joy? If not, ask the Holy Spirit to make this reality true for you, deep in your heart.

Look outward - with whom can you share this Christian joy? How can you express this joy in order to make it complete?

Look forward - what about the future new creation excites you and fills your heart with joy to get you through this present moment?

WEEK 3



becoming

fruit of the Spirit summer series



"Becoming" • Week 3

Galatians 5:22 - *The fruit of the Spirit is...joy....*

In such chaotic times as this current cultural moment, the Church has a different and better way of life to offer the world. The fruit of the Spirit is about living life by the Spirit of God in order to become the kind of person this world needs.

This series of devotionals is designed to take us deeper into what God has for us each week, based on the topic of the previous Sunday's teaching.

This week we explore the second fruit of the Spirit - joy.

Instructions: this could be a simple format for your prayer time:

1. Begin with a prayer of approach, asking God to reveal himself to you and to take you deeper into relationship with him.
2. Come with an attitude of humility, submission, and learning, so that you're ready to obey what God says.
3. Pray the Scripture for that day. Read it slowly. What stands out to you? What strikes you? Read it a second time slowly.
4. Keep note throughout the day how you notice or experience joy (or lack thereof) in your life. Be thinking about what you could share with someone else regarding the goodness and love of God.

Friday, July 24, 2026

Many people in our world (and sometimes we ourselves) are often happy to get what we want, but then when we get what we want, we often discover it didn't satisfy us like we thought it would. People can be happy but still in their sin.

For the Christian, our deepest joy come when God's wants become our wants.

Take a mental inventory of things you want, without judgment. Then, simply bring those wants to God and ask him - is this what you want for my life, or do you have something different for me?

Ask God to help you surrender to what God wants for your life, not simply asking him to bless what you want.

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Richard Foster says that God's normal means of bringing joy into our lives are not in the spectacular, one of a kind, moments, though he does do that. But what God will often do is redeem and sanctify the ordinary things of human life.

Which means that one of the most joyful things we can do is be grateful for those everyday, ordinary things of life that God gives. Take a moment to list some things you're grateful for, no matter how miniscule.

Now take a moment and receive these good gifts as if you are receiving them from your Father in heaven.

Monday, July 20, 2026

Theologian Karl Barth once said that joy is a "defiant nevertheless!"

Take a moment to name what is going on your life, in your heart - any emotions, stress, burdens.

Bring these things to the Lord, and then intentionally say "nevertheless" - and then name what's true about God and his ways.

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Read Psalm 73:1-5 (NIV):

- ¹ Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.
² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.
³ For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
⁴ They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.
⁵ They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.*

Let's be honest - sometimes it seems the godless seem to have it all, along with all the happiness that comes with it all. The Psalmist here will later wonder if he's doing something wrong.

Have you ever felt that way?

It all changes for the writer when he says this:

- ¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply
¹⁷ till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.*

What happens in the "sanctuary of God" to help adjust our thinking to God's perspective?

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Read James 1:2-4 (NIV): "² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

Where is your faith being tested right now? the goodness of God? how reliable God is? how God is able to provide?

The next verse tells us how to make it through: "⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."

In what areas of your life do you need wisdom?