

Fruit Of The Spirit

Joy

(Ph 4:4-5)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the "Fruit Of The Spirit."
 - a. We look last week at the characteristic "Love."
 - i. Love is a commitment.
 - ii. Love is a sacrifice.
 - iii. Love is united.
 - b. Today we are going to look at the characteristic "Joy."
3. What is joy?
 - a. Joy comes from the Greek word "χαρά" or "car-ra."
 - i. It is found 59 times in the New Testament and means...
 1. A "calm delight:—gladness, joy." (Strong, J. (2009). A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.)
 2. **Co 1:11** "May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy"¹
 - a. **Ph 4:4** "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice."
 - ii. Thus joy is that calm delight and gladness one manifests in Christ as a characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit.
 - b. There are many false joys in the world also.
 - i. Fornication, drugs, alcohol, materialism...
 1. These never bring lasting calm delight and gladness.
4. With this in mind let us examine how we get this joy that is manifest in us in Christ.

I. Joy From FAITH In The Lord

- A. Faith is...
 1. Conviction
 - i. **Ac 5:29** "But Peter and the apostles answered, We must obey God rather than men."
 2. Firm belief
 - i. **Jn 8:24** "I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins."
 3. Obedience
 - i. **Jn 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
 4. Strong trust
 - i. **Ps 37:5** "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act."

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Fruit Of The Spirit

- B. Faith removes...
 - 1. Fear
 - i. **I Jn 4:18** "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love."
 - 2. Doubt
 - i. **Ja 1:6** "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind."
 - 3. Worry
 - i. **I Pt 5:6-7** "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you."
- C. Faith is found in...
 - 1. God's Word
 - i. **Ro 10:17** "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (NKJV)
- D. Thus...
 - 1. The joy we are to have comes from our faith in the Lord.
 - i. Our joy comes from our conviction, firm belief, obedience, and strong trust which is built in God's Word.

II. Joy From FOLLOWING The Lord

- A. In the scriptures we see manifestations of this joy in God's children
 - 1. The joy of obedience.
 - i. **Ac 8:4-8, 38-39** "Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. 6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was much joy in that city...38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing."
 - 2. The joy of serving the Lord.
 - i. **Ps 100:2** "Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!"
 - 3. The joy of "hear" of others obedience.
 - i. **Ac 15:3** "So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren." (NKJV)
 - ii. **II Jn 4** "I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father."

Fruit Of The Spirit

- B. On the flip side we find how joy less it ends up being on those that disobey God
 - 1. Disobedience brings the fearful expectation of judgment.
 - i. **He 10:26-27** "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries."
- C. Thus...
 - 1. We find the joy we get from following the Lord.

III. Joy From FORGIVENESS In The Lord

- A. Sin brings a burden on our shoulders
 - 1. Forgiveness removes the guilt, worry, and stress of sin.
 - i. **Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11** "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit...5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin...11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!"
- B. Sin can plague us
 - 1. Forgiveness removes that plague of sin from us
 - i. **Ps 51:3, 7-12** "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me...7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit."
- C. Thus...
 - 1. We can see the joy that comes from knowing our sins are forgiven.

IV. Joy From FELLOWSHIP In The Lord

- A. Our fellowship is with God "and" man that our joy may be full
 - 1. **I Jn 1:3-4** "that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete."
- B. Paul rejoiced over the help he got from the Philippians
 - 1. **Ph 4:10** "I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity."

Fruit Of The Spirit

- C. John looked forward to the fellowship he would have with the elect lady and her children that his joy would be made full
 - 1. **II Jn 12** "Though I have much to write to you, I would rather not use paper and ink. Instead I hope to come to you and talk face to face, so that our joy may be complete.
- D. Thus...
 - 1. The fellowship we have with God "and" man manifest the characteristic of joy in our lives.

CONCLUSION

- 1.