

It's All in the Fruit (of the Spirit) (Part 2) – Joy
Galatians 5:22-23

Galatians 5:22-23. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

I. The next virtue is joy.

A. What is it?

1. Joy is a ‘delight in the heart that is based on spiritual realities.’ (Merritt).

1. This joy is from the Lord.

Romans 14:17. ¹⁷ for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

2. This joy is independent of our circumstances.

Sometimes people confuse happiness with this joy. Happiness is dependent upon our circumstances. Joy is independent of our circumstances.

B. Some manifestations of this joy.

1. Joy provides strength.

Nehemiah 8:10. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

2. Joy will show up in our worship.

Psalms 33:1 Sing for joy in the LORD, O you righteous ones; Praise is becoming to the upright.

3. Joy will result in hope in the Lord.

Romans 15:13. ¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C. Now how do you get this joy?

1. Joy is a command.

1 Thessalonians 5:16. ¹⁶ Rejoice always;...

2. Joy is a choice in the Lord.

Philippians 4:4. ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

The key is the expression ‘in the Lord’. You can’t always rejoice in your circumstances, but you can always rejoice in the Lord who is greater than your circumstances, by focusing on the Lord in the midst of your circumstances.

Yeshua gives us an example that any mother can relate to.

John 16:21. ²¹ "Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world.

We see an example of that in Yeshua's life.

Hebrews 12:2. fixing our eyes on Yeshua, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Appl. Are you joyful right now? Choose to yield to the Spirit and be joyful despite what you are going through.

3. Joy is a result of focusing on the Lord in our situation.

Psalm 118:24. ²⁴ This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

James 1:2-4. ² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

4. Joy comes from getting the Lord's joy.

John 15:11. ¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

5. Joy comes from yielding to the Lord's control.

We have a choice. We can choose to yield to the control of Spirit and He will produce the fruit of joy no matter what you are going through. Or you have a choice to focus on your problems and in the flesh not be joyful.

6. Joy comes from avoiding the joy robber.

Sin robs you of joy.

John 15:10-11. ¹⁰ "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

7. Ask the Lord to make you aware if you are not joyful.

8. Joy in the Lord should characterize your life.

Appl. Do those who know you best, consider you a joyful person?