

A Fruitful Season – Part 6 | Joy

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

Galatians 5:22-26 (NLT)

*My dear friends, you have always obeyed God when I was with you. It is even more important that you obey now while I am away from you. **Keep on working to complete your salvation with fear and trembling,***

Philippians 2:12 (NCV)

To understand joy, we must know the difference between joy and happiness.

- **Happiness is based on my circumstances.**
- **Joy is a direct result of an intentional partnership.**

You will teach me how to live a holy life. Being with You will fill me with joy; at Your right hand, I will find pleasure forever.

Psalms 16:11 (NCV)

*because **God is working in you to help you** want to do and be able to do what pleases him.*

Philippians 2:13 (NCV)

*So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. **May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do.** Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (NLT)

To walk in God's joy we must:

- **Embrace joy as a lifestyle not an occasion.**

Your faith makes you offer your lives* as a sacrifice in serving God. *If I have to offer my own blood with your sacrifice, **I will be happy and full of joy** with all of you. **You also should be happy and full of joy** with me.

Philippians 2:17-18 (NCV)

We will not understand God until we understand this about Him:

- **God is the happiest being in the universe.**

God has made a home in the heavens for the sun. **It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race.**

Psalms 19:4b-5 (NLT)

I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

John 15:11 (NLT)

What hinders us from experiencing God's joy?

- **It is our preoccupation with self.**

*But to the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. **You love justice and hate evil. Therefore, O God, your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.**" He also says to the Son, "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands.*

Hebrews 1:8-10 (NLT)

*But that does not mean we want to dominate you **by telling you how to put your faith into practice.** We want to work together with you **so you will be full of joy,** for it is by your own faith that you stand firm.*

2 Corinthians 1:24 (NLT)

Joy is the most underutilized weapon in our spiritual arsenal.

- **True joy enables us to survive the worst.**

*They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were interpreting for the people said to them, "**Don't mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the Lord your God.**" For the people had all been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. **This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!**" And the Levites, too, quieted the people, telling them, "Hush! Don't weep! For this is a sacred day." So the people went away to eat and drink at a festive meal, to share gifts of food, and **to celebrate with great joy because they had heard God's words and understood them.***

Nehemiah 8:8-12 (NLT)

My friends, be glad, even if you have a lot of trouble. You know that you learn to endure by having your faith tested. But you must learn to endure everything, so that you will be completely mature and not lacking in anything.

James 1:2-4 (CEV)

How do we build joy into our lives?

- **Take responsibility for your own joy.**
 - **Start now.**
 - **Learn from other joyful people.**

- **Unplug from time to time.**
- **Train your mind to view life from a biblical perspective.**

*Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a vast crowd or the roar of mighty ocean waves or the crash of loud thunder: “Praise the Lord! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. **Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself.***

Revelation 19:6-7 (NLT)

*And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. **He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.**”*

Revelation 21:2-4 (NLT)

*So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. **These trials will show that your faith is genuine.** It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. **So when your faith remains strong through many trials,** it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. You love him even though you have never seen him. **Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.***

1 Peter 1:6-8 (NLT)