

A Fruitful Season – Part 7 | 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)

Recap:

- 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)

- Embrace joy as a lifestyle not an occasion.

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

- God is the happiest being in the universe.

I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! According to Jesus, the problem with people, is not that we are too happy for God's taste, it is that we are not happy enough.

John 15:11 (NLT)

What hinders us from experiencing God's joy?

- It is our pre-occupation with self.

What is true joy?

- True Holy Spirit empowered 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.**

Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:11 (NLT)

Our hearts ache, but we always have joy. We are poor, but we give spiritual riches to others. We own nothing, and yet we have everything.

2 Corinthians 6:10 (NLT)

- **Start now.**

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!

Philippians 4:4 (NLT)

Always be joyful.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 (NLT)

- **Learn from other joyful people.**

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. **They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.** For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. **They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.** So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving. Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. **I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.**

2 Corinthians 8:1-8 (NLT)

- **Unplug from time to time.**

Light in a messenger's eyes brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.

Proverbs 15:30 (NIV)

The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living.

Psalm 19:8 (NLT)

But may all who search for you be filled with joy and gladness in you. May those who love your salvation repeatedly shout, “The Lord is great!”

Psalm 40:16 (NLT)

As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find joy in your commands.

Psalm 119:143 (NLT)

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

*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)

*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)

No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. You have come to the assembly of God’s firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things. You have come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect. You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.

Hebrews 12:22-24 (NLT)

Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault.

Jude 1:24 (NLT)