

THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – JOY

Junior High Lesson July 5th



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Main Point: God' has given us the Holy Spirit to lead us to Jesus and help us live the Christian life becoming more like Jesus. The fruit of "joy" is a wonderful fruit of the Holy Spirit which finds its source in Jesus' own joy.

Overview: The fruit of the Spirit leads us to be more loving, kind, patient, forgiving, etc. The problem is that we're not designed to live that way in our own power. It's only when we stay connected to Jesus that those characteristics flow out of our lives. The fruit of joy is the opposite of feelings like depression and sadness, which affect so many people. This doesn't mean you should never feel sad, but if all you ever are is sad, then there is a good chance you are not enjoying this fruit of the Spirit. Jesus said to his disciples before he went to heaven, *"I have made these things known to you that my joy made be in and your joy will be made complete."*
John 15:11

Paul teaches about the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22=23. He says when we live selfishly we exhibit little of these fruits, but when we rely on the Holy Spirit we can enjoy its fruits.

"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."-Galatians 5:22-23

Do you experience the fruit of the Holy Spirit joy very often? What does God's joy feel like?

Other cool verses on joy ...

"Do not be sad for the joy of the Lord is your strength". Nehemiah 8:10

"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!" Philippians 4:4

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thesalonians 5:16-18

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

One of the biggest things to understand about the Holy Spirit's fruit of joy is that it is fundamentally different than what the world would call "happiness". Of course being happy isn't a bad thing. Happiness is good, but it is also fleeting. We often hear the saying, "Don't worry, be happy." It's basically saying if we are worried, we can just talk ourselves into being happy. A better saying would be, "Don't worry, pray!"

The difference between happiness and joy is that joy is from the Lord. It's source is in Jesus himself. This is why he says, "My joy I give to you." Joy is independent of circumstances.

This is why Christians can have joy even when they are going through hard times. This is quite amazing if you think about it. You can have joy on any day no matter how bad it is going. It is not something you just try to muster up, but a result of living by God's Spirit within you.

There are a lot of things in this world that will try to take away your "joy", not the least of which is the devil who wants to steal your joy. He knows if he can steal your joy, you will be a less effective Christian. The joy of Christian in their daily life draws others to want to know why you can be joyful despite going through hard times. It is always amazing to me when I visit someone with a terminal illness, and they can still beam with joy. They are a living testimony to the verse, "the joy of the Lord will be my strength". Notice again is it the joy of the LORD!!

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the areas in your life that give you joy? What role does God have in those areas?
2. Who or what steals joy from your life? How can you avoid those people or situations?
3. How can you rely on the joy of Jesus more in your life? How might growing in your relationship with him make you more aware of the "full joy" he wants you to have? How can everyone in your family encourage each other to be joyful?

MAIN POINT

The Holy Spirit gives us a joy the world cannot give us. The joy God gives us in Jesus is better than happiness which is fleeting!

**Share your highs and lows from this past week. Close in pray
for each other giving God thanks for your highs and asking
God to be with you in your lows.**

BIBLE STUDY, GAMES AND FRIENDS

Join us Wednesday @ 7pm on Zoom

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WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

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