



Go for God!

“The Fruit of the Holy Spirit Is JOY!” ***How To Be A Fruitful Christian Series (Part 2)***

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, JOY, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23

> Divine JOY Defined - JOY is a positive attitude or pleasant emotion; delight. Many levels of joy are also described, including gladness, contentment, and cheerfulness. But the joy, which the people of God should have, is holy, pure and distinct from mere happiness. This joy rises above circumstances and focuses on the very character of God.

- Our JOY is found in God's characteristics as well as His acts are the cause of rejoicing:

#1 - God's righteousness - Ps 71:14-16 - But I will hope continually, and will praise You yet more and more. My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day, for I do not know their limits. I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.

#2 - God's salvation - Ps 21:1-2 - The king shall have joy in Your strength, O LORD; and in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips.

#3 - God's mercy - Ps 31:7 - I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, for You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities,

#4 - God's creation - Ps 148

#5 - God's Word - Ps 119:14 - How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

#6 - God's faithfulness - Ps 33:1-3 - Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful. Praise the LORD WITH the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.

#7- Sin is joy's thief – Psalm 51:10-13 - Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.

> J.O.Y. (Jesus—Others—You) IN ACTION!

> JESUS!

- Jesus brings great joy! - Luke 2:10-11 - *Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

- Jesus taught us how to obtain the Fullness of Joy - John 15:1-11

- Jesus PRAYED that His disciples would experience His Joy - John 17:13 - *But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. (If Jesus prayed for this then it's possible!)*

- Jesus warns against SHALLOW joy – Matthew 13:18-23

- Jesus joy is found in PERSECUTION – Acts 5:40-42 - *And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His* name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

> OTHERS!

- Joy in SERVICE! - Rom 14:17-18 - *Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.*

- REFRESHING others with joy! - Philemon 20 - *Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord.*

- Joy comes from seeing others SAVED! - 1 Thess 2:19-20 - *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy. (Experience the joy in Luke 15!)*

- Joy in DISCIPLESHIP! - 3 John 4 - *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

> YOU!

- The joy required of the righteous person - Phil 4:4 - *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*

- This kind of joy looks beyond the present to our future salvation! - Rom 5:1-2 - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

Rom 8:18 - *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

1 Peter 1:3-9 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith — the salvation of your souls.*

- Joy like this is possible, even in the midst of sorrow - 1 Cor 12:26 - *And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

2 Cor 6:10 - *as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.*

2 Cor 7:4 - *Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my boasting on your behalf. I am filled with comfort. I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation..*

**> JOY'S HAPPY ATTITUDE! - Matthew 5:3-12
(The word "*blessed*" means "happy!")**

(v3) *Blessed (HAPPY) are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* To be poor in spirit is to have a humble opinion of ourselves; to be sensible that we are sinners, and have no righteousness of our own; to be willing to be saved only by the rich grace and mercy of God and to share the same heart with others.

(v4) *Blessed (HAPPY) are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.* Turn from sin, repent and be comforted.

(v5) *Blessed (HAPPY) are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.* An attitude of humility toward God and gentleness toward men, springing from a recognition that God is in control. Meekness is strength and courage under control, coupled with kindness.

(v6) *Blessed (HAPPY) are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.* This righteousness is holy and upright living, in accordance with God's standard. Righteousness is a moral concept. In the context of relationships, righteous action is action that promotes the peace and well-being of human beings in their relationships to one another.

(v7) *Blessed (HAPPY) are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.* God's mercy is not merely His pardon of offenders, but His attitude to man, and to the world generally, from which His pardoning mercy proceeds. The frequency with which mercy is enjoined on men is specially deserving of notice. "Mercy" is used of man as well as of God, and is required on man's part toward man.

(v8) *Blessed (HAPPY) are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.* That is, whose minds, motives, and principles are pure; who seek not only to have the external actions correct, but who desire to be holy in heart, and who are so. Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart.

(v9) Blessed (HAPPY) are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Those who strive to prevent contention, strife, and war; who use their influence to reconcile opposing parties, and to prevent lawsuits and hostilities in families and neighborhoods.

(v10-12) Blessed (HAPPY) are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed (HAPPY) are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.