

JOY

9-14-08

Text: Galatians 5:22 b "... joy ..."

Purpose: We want to understand clearly the meaning and application of "joy."

Introduction: How can you tell if someone has "joy"? Can you tell by their facial expressions; their physical reactions; their vocal speech and sounds; how then?

Merriam - Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. (11th Ed.)

- 1 a** the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires: DELIGHT
- b** the expression or exhibition of such emotion : GAIETY
- 2** a state of happiness or felicity : BLISS
- 3** a source or cause of delight

1. Joy Needs To Be Defined

1. The Source of "Joy" - "*But the fruit of the Spirit*"

1. "*the fruit* – καρπο□" – is singular and that indicates the unity of these characteristics and all can be found in a true born again believer! The *fruit* refers to the *characteristics* of the Holy Spirit.

2. "*of the Spirit* – του πνευματο□" is in the genitive case of possession. The *fruit – characteristics* "of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control." ⁱ all belong to the Holy Spirit.

3. There is a contrast between "works" and "fruit."

1) "works – are produced by labor, effort and physical exertion. They are good but they can be mixed with improper motives. Good works are necessary in the lives of believers and are good under the leading and control of the Holy Spirit. Note Colossians 1:¹⁰ *And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,* ¹¹ *being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully* ¹² *giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you^b to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.* ¹³ *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,* ¹⁴ *in whom we have redemption,^c the forgiveness of sins.* ⁱⁱ

2) "*fruit*" – is the result of a personal relationship with the Triune Godhead. This fruit – *characteristics* are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control. They are inexhaustible because they are the characteristics of the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer. These characteristics are pure because the Holy Spirit is pure and holy! 2 Corinthians 3: ¹⁸ *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect^d the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.* ⁱⁱⁱ

4. Joy is based upon a personal relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

2. The Grammatical Study of the word “joy.”

1. “joy – χαρά” -Noun, nominative, singular, feminine
2. χαρά [*chara* /khar·ah/] n f. occurrences; AV translates as “joy” 51 times, “gladness” three times, “joyful” once, “joyous” once, “joyfulness” once, “joyfully + 3326” once, and “greatly” once. 1 joy, gladness. 1A the joy received from you. 1B the cause or occasion of joy. 1B1 of persons who are one’s joy.^{iv}
3. χαρά (*chara*), ἄσ (as), ἡ (hē): n.fem.; ≡ 1. gladness, state of rejoicing, happiness (Mt 28:8; 2Co 1:15 v.r.); 2. reason for gladness (1Th 2:19)^v

3. The Biblical Study of the word “joy.”

1. The word “joy” occurs 223 times in the NIV; the KJ 175 times; NASV 188 times; NKJ 172 times.

2. The word “joy” in our text is in the nominative case and is used 17 times in the NIV New Testament.

1) The first mention is in Luke 1:14 - ¹¹ *Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.* ¹² *When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.* ¹³ *But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.* ¹⁴ *He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth,* ¹⁵ *for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth.*^a ¹⁶ *Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God.* ¹⁷ *And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*”^{vi} The “forerunner of Christ!

2) The last mention is in 2 Jn. 12. ¹² *I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.*^{vii} The disciple closest to Christ!

3) The word “joy” is used in the NIV New Testament as a noun in various settings:

1) Luke 15:7 *Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*

2) Luke 15:10 *Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

3) John 3:29 *The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete.*

- 4) John 15:11 (2) *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*
- 5) John 16:24 *Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*
- 6) Acts 8:8 *So there was much joy in that city.*
- 7) Rom 14:17 *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*
- 8) 2 Cor 2:3 *And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all.*
- 9) Gal 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*
- 10) Phil 4:1 *Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.*
- 11) Phil 4:1 *firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.*
- 12) 1 Thess 2:19 *For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?*
- 13) 1 Thess 2:20 *For you are our glory and joy.*
- 14) James 4:9 *Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.*
- 15) 1 John 1:4 *And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*
- 16) 2 Jn. 12. ¹² *I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.*

4. Joy's foundation is the Sovereign God and His control our lives. Joy is based upon a relationship with the Triune Godhead. The acronym **Jesus – Others – You** is very good. We focus upon Jesus and not circumstances whether they be good, difficult or bad. Circumstances fluctuate but Jesus is *immutable* – He never changes! He is the same yesterday, today and forever! Hebrews 13: ⁷ *Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.* ⁸ *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.* ^{viii} The immutability of Jesus is the foundation for *stability* in leadership!

5. Joy comes from *submission* to Jesus Christ. Phil. 2: ¹² *Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,* ¹³ *for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.*

¹⁴ *Do everything without complaining or arguing,* ¹⁵ *so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe* ¹⁶ *as you hold out^a the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.* ¹⁷ *But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.* ¹⁸ *So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.* ^{ix}

Applications:

1. Oh the thrill and the joy of being *close to Jesus!*
2. Jesus *first* in our minds and lives will always produce “*joy*”!
3. Let us rejoice that the Triune Godhead is the Sovereigns of the universe!
4. Jesus, is always working hand in hand with the Holy Spirit to develop an intimate relationship with us and we with Them that will result in our personal *joy*.

2. Joy Needs to Be Applied: So, here are a few suggestions for keeping the joy in your life.

1. *Surrender your mind to the Lord at the beginning of each day.* This is a part of dedication: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your *bodies* a living sacrifice.... And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your *mind*, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect *will* of God” (Rom. 12:1–2). Give God your body, mind, and will—by faith—as you start each day.

2. *Let the Holy Spirit renew your mind through the Word.* Daily systematic reading of the Bible is a must if you are going to have victory and joy.

3. *As you pray, ask God to give you that day a single mind, a submissive mind, a spiritual mind, a secure mind.* As you contemplate the day’s schedule, be sure that nothing you have planned robs you of the joy God wants you to have. Perhaps you must meet a person you don’t especially like. Ask God to give you the submissive mind that you will need. Or, maybe you must go through a difficult experience. Then be sure you have the single mind, concerned with Christ and the Gospel, and not only with your own personal likes and dislikes. [Phil. 4:8,9]

4. *During the day, “mind your mind!”* If you find yourself losing your inner peace and joy, stop and take inventory. *Do I have the single mind? Did I just miss an opportunity to glorify Christ? Or was I a bit pushy, so that I lost the submissive mind?* If you discover you have sinned, then immediately confess it to the Lord (1 John 1:9). If possible, go back and remedy your mistake. If this cannot be done, ask God to give you another opportunity for witness.

5. *Guard the gates of your mind.* Remember Paul’s admonition in Philippians 4:8: “Whatsoever things are true... honest... just... pure... lovely... of good report... think on these things.” When an unkind or impure thought enters your mind, *deal with it instantly*. If you cultivate it, it will take root and grow—and rob you of your joy. Sometimes Satan will throw his “fiery darts” at you, and sometimes he will use other people to do it for him. One of the best ways to defeat the wrong kinds of thoughts is to fill your mind with Scripture; so take time to memorize the Word of God. [1 Peter 5:8,9]

6. *Remember that your joy is not meant to be a selfish thing; it is God’s way of glorifying Christ and helping others through you.* **J**esus first, **O**thers second, **Y**ourself last; and the result is JOY. ^x

How Can “JOY” be appropriated in “MY” Life?

1. Surrender your mind to the Lord at the beginning of each day.
2. Let the Holy Spirit renew your mind through the Word.
3. As you pray, ask God to give you that day a single mind, a submissive mind, a spiritual mind, a secure mind.
4. During the day, “mind your mind!”
5. Guard the gates of your mind.
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ⁱ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Ga 5:22-23

^b Some manuscripts *us*

^c A few late manuscripts *redemption through his blood*

ⁱⁱ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Col 1:10-14

^a Or *contemplate*

ⁱⁱⁱ *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 2 Co 3:18

^{iv} Strong, James: *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible : Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order*. electronic ed. Ontario : Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996

^v Swanson, James: *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains : Greek (New Testament)*. electronic ed. Oak Harbor : Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997

^a Or *from his mother’s womb*

^{vi} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Lk 1:11-17

^{vii} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. 2 Jn 12

^{viii} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Heb 13:7-8

^a Or *hold on to*

^{ix} *The Holy Bible : New International Version*. electronic ed. Grand Rapids : Zondervan, 1996, c1984, S. Php 2:12-18

^x Wiersbe, Warren W.: *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. Col 1:5

^{xi} Wiersbe, Warren W.: *The Bible Exposition Commentary*. Wheaton, Ill. : Victor Books, 1996, c1989, S. Col 1:5