

Joy

Lesson 3

- I. **Joy** - The second manifestation of “the fruit of the Spirit,” listed by Paul, is “joy.”
- A. The Greek “joy” (chara’) is a state of mind and attitude that comes from being right with God.
 - B. Christians [God’s people] are to be a joyous, happy people. (Psa. 144:15).
 - 1. They are not to go around with a sad, forlorn face.
 - 2. This shows something is seriously wrong with one’s religion and drives people away from Christ and the church.
 - a. Many Christians look upon religion with very negative terms. "I can't do this and I can't do that." They believe it is their duty to be miserable.
 - b. Many Christians become sour, bitter, and become a pain to be around.
 - c. Many Christians are almost always feeling sorry for themselves.
 - 3. Joy comes from who we are and the great blessing we enjoy in Christ, not merely being against certain things.
 - 4. Christians must be against certain things, but this is not the source of their joy.

Note:

- Joy is not the joy that comes from earthly things or from winning a competition.
 - Joy is not just laughter or jumping up and down though it does not necessarily exclude these things.
 - Joy comes from putting **Jesus first, others second, and yourself last.**
- C. Christians are **taught to be happy**. See Matt. 13:20, 44; Jn.16:17-24; Phil.3:1; 4:4; 1 Thess. 5:16; Acts 2:46; 13:52
- 1. Christians seek to avoid the fleeting pleasures of sin. (Heb. 11:25).

HEB 11:25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin;

- a. Christians avoid these things because they love God and seek to please Him.
 - b. They avoid these things because they know they have terrible consequences. (Gal. 6:7).
 - c. These things rob a person of true joy.
- 2. They seek happiness in God and the things God wills that they do.

II. Some Reasons Christians Should Be Happy.

- A. The Christian has been **saved from past sins**. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
 - 1. This is a great cause for rejoicing. (Acts 8:39; 16:34).

2. Christians should sing, "Happy day, happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away."

3. Paul wrote these important words in 1 Corinthians to those who had been steeped in sins. (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

1CO 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

1CO 6:10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

1CO 6:11 And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

a. Paul affirmed, "but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified."

b. "Washed" [apoleuo] refers to their being cleansed by the blood of Jesus when they were immersed into Christ. Those one immersed is sprinkled by the blood of Jesus. (1 Pet. 1:2).

c. "Sanctified" [hagiazō] means "to set apart." They had been set apart from the kingdom of darkness and were now to live as "children of light" in God's kingdom. (Col. 1:13; Eph. 5:8).

d. "Justified" [diakaoō] means to be declared pardoned and treated as pardon. (Heb. 8:12).

B. The Christian is **saved from daily sins**. (1 Jn. 2:1-2). See 1 Jn. 1:7, 9.

C. The Christian has **a God who takes care of him**. (Psa. 46:1).

MAT 10:29 "Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. MAT 10:30 "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. MAT 10:31 "Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows.	ROM 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
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D. The Christian has **a great fellowship**.

1. **Deity** - God, Christ, Holy Spirit. (1 Jn. 4:12, 15; 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27; Matt. 28:20).

2. **Christians** (Acts 2:46).

Note: We are encouraged to walk with those of good behavior. (Psa. 1:1; 1 Cor. 15:33; 2 Cor. 6:17, 18).

E. The Christian finds joy in **seeing others led to Christ**. (Acts 15:3).

ACT 15:3 Therefore, being sent on their way by the church, they were passing through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and **were bringing great joy to all the brethren**.

F. The Christian finds joy in **leading others to Christ**.

1. It is a joy leading others to Christ.

2. No other joy compares to it.

3. It is an immense joy when we hear those we have led to Christ are remaining faithful.

3JO 1:4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

G. The Christian has joy over **Christ's second coming** and the **hope of heaven**. (Rom. 12:12; Rev. 21:4, 6).

1. This hope is not merely a wish or desire.
2. This hope is based on the promises of Jesus and His death and resurrection.
3. Because He was raised from the death, we too will be raised from the death. (1 Cor. 15:20-23).

H.. The Christian rejoices whenever **the lost are restored**.

1. Lk. 15:4-7, 25-32
2. Lk. 15:7, 10.

I. The Christian can even rejoice **in persecution**.

1. Persecutions and trials often bring out the best in us. (Jas. 1:2-4).

JAM 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

JAM 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

JAM 1:4 And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

a. Trials are not themselves joyous.

b. What they produce can be a cause for rejoicing.

2. They show if our religion is genuine or a pretense.

3. The Christian can even be joyous in persecution because of heaven and being counted worthy to suffer for the sake of Christ. (Matt. 5:10-12; 1 Pet. 4:13; Acts 5:41; 16:25).

J. Christian joy **does not depend on outward circumstances**. (Phil. 4:10-13).

PHI 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.

PHI 4:11 Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

PHI 4:12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

PHI 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

1. Paul and Silas were joyful in prison. (Acts 16:25).

2. Paul had joy and contentment in prison. (Acts 28:30).

ACT 28:30 And he stayed two full years in his own rented quarters, and was welcoming all who came to him,
ACT 28:31 preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

Note:

- Outward circumstances can change quickly.
- The important thing is our relationship to God and His Son.

III. Rules Which Lead To Happiness

A. Don't worry (Matt. 6:25-33; 10:29-31; Phil. 4:5,6).

B. Live a day at a time. (Matt. 6:34).

MAT 6:34 "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

C. Ask for God's forgiveness and accept it.

HEB 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more."	1JO 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
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D. Do not cherish grudges (1 Cor. 13:5; Eph. 4:26).

1CO 13:5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered,	EPH 4:26 Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
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E. Work is essential to happiness.

1. The unhappiest people in the world are those who have nothing to do.
2. Work gives us a sense of worth, satisfaction and accomplishment.
3. A working Christian is a happy Christian and a working church is a happy church.

F. Accept limitations

1. Talents (Matt. 25:14-30).
2. Handicaps - God can use them.
3. Circumstances - temporary or permanent

G. Serve others

1. We must first look to the good of others. (1 Cor. 10:24).
2. We must not be self-centered. (Matt. 20:27,28).

H. Be content

1. Philippians 4:11-13; 1 Tim. 6:6-8.

PHI 4:11 Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. PHI 4:12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. PHI 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.	1TI 6:6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. 1TI 6:7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. 1TI 6:8 And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.
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2. The list of essentials has greatly increased in recent years.
3. Most things we regard as essential are not really essential, and many people past and present live and

have lived happy lives without them.

I. Keep self fit to live with.

1. Sin can destroy our happiness and mental and physical health.
2. Sin can destroy what others think of us.

J. Do a kind deed every day.

1. Don't tell others
2. Keep the joy inside.
3. We tend to lose what we tell whether it be guilt or joy.

K. Live each day as though it were the last - it could be! (Prov. 27:1).

1. This means we will be doing good and seeking forgiveness.
2. This means we will focus on the really important things.

L. Resolve you are going to be happy.

1. Abraham Lincoln said, "Most people are just about as happy as they make up their mind to be."
2. Happiness is a state of mind.
3. It comes from knowing we are right with God and His Son.
4. The attitude of thankfulness promotes happiness.
5. Counting blessings will make us joyful.

M. Don't fret about past mistakes. (Phil. 3:13). See 1 Tim. 1:13-16.

1. We should make restitution if it is possible.
2. There are times when it is impossible to make restitution.
3. We need to press on doing God's will.
4. We can seldom totally correct the past, but the present and future can be used to glorify God.

N. Find purpose and pleasure in doing God's will.

1. It is a great thrill to know we are doing God's will, and we are a member of His family.
2. It is joyful to please the Maker.

O. Christian association

1. It is joyful to be around people who are like-minded.
2. It is joyful to work, play, and worship with other believers.
3. The joyful fellowship we have here in this life is a mere foretaste of the glorious fellowship of heaven.

Some Scriptures On Joy

PSA 32:11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones, **And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.**

PSA 33:1 **Sing for joy in the Lord, O you righteous ones**; Praise is becoming to the upright.

PSA 51:12 **Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation**, And sustain me with a willing spirit.

PSA 71:23 **My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to Thee**; And my soul, which Thou hast redeemed.

PSA 92:4 For Thou, O Lord, hast **made me glad** by what Thou hast done, **I will sing for joy at the works of Thy hands**.

PSA 95:1 O come, **let us sing for joy to the Lord; Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation**.

MAT 25:21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, **enter into the joy of your master**.'

LUK 15:7 "I tell you that in the same way, **there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents**, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

LUK 15:10 "In the same way, I tell you, **there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents**."

JOH 17:13 "But now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, **that they may have My joy made full in themselves**.

ACT 13:52 And the disciples were **continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit**.

ROM 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, **but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**.

ROM 15:13 **Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing**, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

ROM 15:32 **so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God** and find refreshing rest in your company.

1TH 1:6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, **having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit**,

PHM 1:7 **For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love**, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

HEB 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, **who for the joy set before Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

HEB 13:17 Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. **Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you**.

1PE 1:8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, **but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory**,

1JO 1:4 And these things we write, **so that our joy may be made complete**.

JUD 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, **and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy**,

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