

BIBLE STUDY: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: Galatians 5: 20 - 25 - JOY

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INTRODUCTION

JOY: (J) Jesus (O) Over (Y) You

Definition: Joy is smiling on the _____

Is the Character of Joy working in you?

Here is how you can find out. Take a careful look at the fruit of joy and rate it in your life. Ask yourself (1 low to 5 high):

1. How do I exhibit joy in my daily life?
2. What can I do to develop a more joyful attitude?
3. What blocks joy from working and being exhibited in me?
4. How can I make joy function better, stronger and faster even in times of uncertainty and stress?

Joy will allow us to enjoy our relationship with Christ, His creation, others, and our circumstances with an expression of delight and real, authentic happiness from and with _____ with God and others.

We are called to 'Count it all joy' this refers to declaring our situation as happy and _____. It is to change our mindset and _____. It is realizing the sovereignty of God and that He is in control, even when life seems to be turned upside down and inside out.

Positive vs Negative view of Joy:

Positive examples of JOY from Scripture (Ex.14: 1-21; 1 Sam. 1:19; 2:10; Luke 10:17-21; 15:22-32; Acts 16:19-34)

Negative examples of JOY from Scripture (Ruth 1:19-21; Job 3:1-19; John 11:17-44)

Happiness vs. Joy

Some people think that joy and happiness are the same, but there is actually a big difference. The word happy comes from the same word as _____. We feel happy if something good is happening to us at that moment. But this means that being happy is just _____; it doesn't last.

One minute something good could be happening and we are happy, but the next minute something bad could be happening and we don't feel happy anymore.

Joy is different. Joy does not depend on what is happening to us. Instead, it is inward. It outlasts all of our trials and troubles.

JOY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

In the Old Testament, joy was an expression of excitement that was experienced with personal _____, or celebrating a good harvest or military victory. Often feasting, the offering of sacrifices or blessings and dancing were tied with joy (Deut 12:12; 1 Sam 18:5 - 6; Ps 31:7-8; Isa. 56:7; 60:15; 61:1 - 3).

Psalm 16:11 “(God,) In your presence is Fullness of Joy.” God is so good and everything He does is amazing! When we spend time with Him, we get to know Him more. We are filled with joy because of who God is and how He _____ for us.

Exodus 34:6-10; 29. Moses spent time with God. and when God gave him the Ten Commandments on the top of Mt. Sinai. It was the closest anyone, besides Adam and Eve, had ever been to God. Moses learned more about God. He saw that God is _____, full of justice, good, forgiving, caring, loving, and faithful.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. He had the two tablets of the covenant in his hands. His face was shining because he had spoken with the Lord. It was a joyful, fulfilling, exuberant experience.

In the New Testament, Joy comes from the Holy Spirit. It is associated with receiving or the telling of God's redemptive _____. It is also associated with the enjoyment of life such as eating, drinking, feasting and even suffering (Acts 7:41; Gal 5:22; 1 Peter 1:6). The more time we spend with God, the more joy we will have. God is the source of our _____.

Out of all the fruits of the Spirit, joy seems to be the one that is most often _____. We always talk about how important it is to love people, be kind, and be peaceful, but we rarely talk about joy.

But joy is very important because it is the easiest fruit for people to see, and people are attracted to joy when they see it. When people see joy in you, they will want to know why you are _____.

Key Statement: God gives us joy because He is joyful. He is the source of joy, just as He is the source of _____, of truth, and of mercy. Joy is both a description of God and a description of what He _____.

Nehemiah 8:10: “The joy of the Lord is our strength.” The Spirit of God and the Word of God are two primary means by which the joy of the Lord is conveyed to men (Psalm 119:111; Jeremiah 15:16).

Read John 15:10-11

After reading John 15, What does Jesus say is the Key for living a Joyful Life?

Read each proverb and write down the Results of Joy:

· Proverbs 15:13

· Proverbs 15:15

· Proverbs 15:30

QUESTIONS:

1. How would you define joy? Are you a grouchy person when you get up?
2. Read James 1:1-4, what does it mean to you to Count it joy? How does self-pity counteract joy?
3. Can you give an example of Joy from your life? When have you been filled with joy the most?
4. Why is Joy indispensable for sharing Christ's love? How is joy a fruit from being confident in our faith?
5. In what situation did you fail to have joy in which you should have?
6. What issue is in your life that would improve with more joy?