

Fruit of the Spirit: LOVE

We need joy...not happiness.

Happiness:

Happiness is **EXTERNAL**

Happiness is based on **CHANCE**

Happiness is based on **CIRCUMSTANCES**

Joy:

Joy is **INTERNAL**

Joy is based on **CHOICE**

Joy is based on **CHRIST**

BIBLICAL WAYS TO EXPRESS JOY:

1. **BRIGHT AND SHINING**
2. **LEAPING AND JUMPING**
3. **SHOUTING**
4. **RUNNING IN CIRCLES**

The Lord your God is with you. He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17

“Charis” is the Greek word for **GRACE**

“Chara” is the Greek word for **JOY**

THE SECRET OF JOY IS PERSPECTIVE.

Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:1-11

1. Joy comes from **UNDERSTANDING TRUTH** (v. 2)
2. Joy comes from **HAVING PEACE WITH GOD** (v. 11)
3. Joy comes from **BEING ACCEPTED** (v. 9)
4. Joy comes from **SEEING THE BIG PICTURE** (vv. 3-5)
5. Joy comes from **HAVING HOPE IN THE FUTURE** (v. 2)

THREE JOY KILLERS:

1. **SELFISHNESS** (James 4:1&2; James 3:16)
2. **RESENTMENT** (Hebrews 12:15; Proverbs 11:29)
3. **FEAR** (Proverbs 12:25)

FEAR DOES THREE THINGS:

- A. Fear makes us **DEFENSIVE**
- B. Fear makes us **DISTANT**
- C. Fear makes us **DEMANDING**

THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE MEANS I...

1. Focus on **GIVING** rather than **RECEIVING**

The Lord Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Acts 20:35

2. Focus on **HEALING** rather than **HURTING**

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13

3. Focus on **GOD’S POWER** rather than **YOUR PROBLEMS**

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Psalm 62:8

I CAN BE JOYFUL IN SPITE OF CIRCUMSTANCES...

Because God is **WITH ME**

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Isaiah 43:2

Because God has a **PLAN FOR ME**

“I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Because God will **HELP ME**

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Psalm 43:5