

Fruit of the Spirit – Joy

Galatians 5:22-23

Introduction – What is Fruit?

- Definitions:
 - o a product of plant growth
 - o the effect or consequence of an action or operation
- Gifts of the Spirit vs Fruit of the Spirit

I. Happiness vs Joy

- Happiness: a pleasurable or satisfying experience or good fortune, based on external or physical circumstances
 - Joy: allows an inner rejoicing that remains in good times and in difficult times, a deep satisfaction that continues even when life seems empty
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7

II. What Brings God Joy?

1. Reconciling us to him – Luke 2:10; Luke 15:7, 10; Hebrews 12:2
2. Abiding and living out of his love – John 15:9-11

III. What is the Source of our Joy?

1. Our own salvation – Luke 10:17-20; 1 Peter 1:8-9
2. Faithfulness – Matthew 25:21, 23
3. Others' salvation – Acts 13:48-52, Acts 15:3
4. Facing trials! – James 1:2-4
5. God's presence – Psalm 16:11

IV. How Can we Cultivate Joy?

1. Keep a long-range perspective – Psalm 30:5, 11
2. Make the choice to rejoice! – Habakkuk 3:17-18
3. Appreciate salvation! – Psalm 51:12

Fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23, modified from Timothy Kellor

Love – An unconditional love and affection that selflessly serves others for their good.

Opposite: Selfish affection or fear which results in abuse.

Counterfeit: Selfish affection where you love someone for what they give you physically or how they make you feel emotionally.

Joy – Taking a deep delight in God himself and satisfaction in your life regardless of outer circumstances.

Opposite: Hopelessness and despair in life

Counterfeit: Happiness or elation because of favorable circumstance that creates mood swings.

Peace – An inner stillness and confidence in God's wisdom and control in life, even when facing trouble.

Opposite: Anxiety and worry

Counterfeit: Apathy or not caring either way about something

Patience – An emotional quietness without reaction to another. It is a willingness to stick with people without pushing for results

Opposite: Resentment toward God or others which causes us to react to them.

Counterfeit: Holding them in contempt or just indifference

Kindness – A compassionate and humble heart that meets the needs of others. Having a deep inner security.

Opposite: Envy or resentment which leaves us unable to care

Counterfeit: Doing good for others so we can feel proud of who we are and more acceptable to God.

Goodness (i.e. integrity) – Zealously doing what is needed for the good of others. This even includes correcting someone, but with loving wisdom.

Opposite: Being truthful but not loving in our actions towards others.

Counterfeit: Doing things to make ourselves look better

Faithfulness – Being utterly reliable and true to our word because we are driven by principle. This produces loyal commitments.

Opposite: Commitments based only on immediate self-interests. A fair-weather friend.

Counterfeit: Being loving but not truthful, because of an unwillingness to confront or challenge others.

Gentleness – The right use of power for the benefit of others. Not needing to force our way in life but using self-restraint.

Opposite: Self-centered use of power.

Counterfeit: Inferiority: self-absorption, self-consciousness

Self-Control – The power the Holy Spirit gives us to master godly things instead of giving into human impulses and desires that enslave us.

Opposite: Impulsive or uncontrolled reaction to things.

Counterfeit: Exercising our own willpower out of pride or the need to feel in control (Col. 2:23).