

Bear Good Fruit: Joy

Word of the Day: Joy

- The word for joy is used around 70 times in the New Testament
- Joy is always used to signify a feeling of happiness that is based on spiritual realities
- Joy is the natural reaction to the work of God
- “Joy is the deep-down sense of well-being that abides in the heart of the person who knows all is well between himself and the Lord.” (Galatians, John MacArthur)

1) Joy is a gift from God

Galatians 5:22-23, Romans 14:17, Romans 15:13, Psalm 16:11, 1 Peter 1:8, Psalm 4:7

- Joy is a fruit of the Spirit
- Joy is not something that believers must try to manufacture or imitate
- Joy is the effect of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our hearts
- Joy is a blessing that we already possess in the Holy Spirit
- True joy is only found in God
- Joy is the inevitable overflow of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and of the believer's knowing His continuing presence

2) Joy is a command for believers

1 Thessalonians 5:16, Philippians 4:4, Romans 5:3-5, 1 Peter 4:13, James 1:2-4, John 16:20, Hebrews 12:1-2

- True Christian joy is both a privilege and a duty
- God intends that every one of His children exhibit the fruit of joy
- There are no circumstances in life that should diminish the Christian's joy

3) Joy is our proper response to God

A) Joy is a proper response to the character of God

Psalm 91:1-2, Psalm 92:4

B) Joy is a proper response to the work of Christ

Psalm 40:16

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John 15:5

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