



# The Fruit of the Spirit #2 = JOY

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Introduction: Paul boldly urges the churches of Galatia to walk by the Spirit. He warns them about the works of the flesh and then identifies the fruit of the Spirit. Let's consider some things about joy . . . .

Discussion:

## I. Grace is a Key to Experiencing Joy

**Philippians 1:2 , 7** says, "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. . . . And I know that I am right to think like this about all of you, because I have you in my heart. All of you share in God's grace with me while I am in prison and while I am defending and proving the truth of the Good News."

- \* Saying Grace vs. Speaking Grace
- \* Eliminate the Negative & Accentuate the Positive
- \* Build On Your Strengths

## II. Humbleness is a Key to Experiencing Joy

**Philippians 2:5-11** says, "In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit. But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant. And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death - death on a cross. So God raised him to the highest place. God made his name greater than every other name so that every knee will bow to the name of Jesus—everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. And everyone will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and bring glory to God the Father."

- \* Seek the Lowest Place
- \* God Does the Exalting
- \* Name Dropping

## III. Knowledge is a Key to Experiencing Joy

**Philippians 3:9-11** says, "Now I am right with God, not because I followed the law, but because I believed in Christ. God uses my faith to make me right with him. I want to know Christ and the power that raised him from the dead. I want to share in his sufferings and become like him in his death. Then I have hope that I myself will be raised from the dead."

- \* Higher Learning
- \* Faith Walking
- \* Knowing, Sharing, and Dying

## IV. Contentment is a Key to Experiencing Joy

**Philippians 4:4-13** says, "Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say again, be full of joy. Let everyone see that you are gentle and kind. The Lord is coming soon. Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks. And God's peace, which is so great we cannot understand it, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Brothers and sisters, think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. Do what you learned and received from me, what I told you, and what you saw me do. And the God who gives peace will be with you. I am very happy in the Lord that you have shown your care for me again. You continued to care about me, but there was no way for you to show it. I am not telling you this because I need anything. I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have and with everything that happens. I know how to live when I am poor, and I know how to live when I have plenty. I have learned the secret of being happy at any time in everything that happens, when I have enough to eat and when I go hungry, when I have more than I need and when I do not have enough. I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength."

- \* Be Full of Joy ALWAYS!
- \* Stop Worrying
- \* Find Joy in the Moment

Conclusion: We need to re-evaluate what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how it is improving our life. Paul hopes that we will live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit! It's time to bear fruit! Are you ready to obey God's will? Are you ready to have joy again?

**WORD OF THE DAY = "JOY"**