

Fruit of the Spirit

Joy

Gal 5:22,23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

These are the things that we should be doing instead of practicing the works of the flesh.

These are only possible if we have salvation in Christ.

I. Definitions

Def. (Strg. 5479) *chara* – joy, gladness, delight, joy based on religion, not from earthly things, especially not joy of triumphing over others in competition. A joy that has its foundation in God.

Many think that joy is something bestowed upon them by blessed circumstances – that every just this thing, or that thing – or in some people’s mind, everything – were just so that they would be happy and joyful. Joyous is something that you decide to be.

“I have found that most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be” A. Lincoln

“It isn’t your position that makes you happy or unhappy – it’s your disposition.”

We’ll we have plenty of “blessed circumstance” in Christ to be joyous in, the only question is, do we have the faith to enliven our attitudes by it.

Be Joyous In:

1.) The Appearance Of Christ

The magi “rejoiced with exceedingly great joy” at the birth of Jesus.

Matt. 2:9-11 “And having heard the king, they went their way; and lo, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them, until it came and stood over where the Child was.

10 And when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

11 And they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.”

It was “good news of great joy” that our Savior was born.

Luke 2:8-11 “And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

10 And the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people;

11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Hymn “Joy To The World” Taken from this text.

Eminently scriptural in words and thought – just performance with instrumental music is wrong.

2.) The Resurrection Of Christ

Temporary sorrow at His death, but everlasting joy at His resurrection.

Jn. 16:16-22 “A little while, and you will no longer behold Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me.”

17 Some of His disciples therefore said to one another, “What is this thing He is telling us, ‘A little while, and you will not behold Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I go to the Father’?”

18 And so they were saying, “What is this that He says, ‘A little while’? We do not know what He is talking about.”

19 Jesus knew that they wished to question Him, and He said to them, "Are you deliberating together about this, that I said, 'A little while, and you will not behold Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me'?"

20 Truly, truly, I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned to joy.

21 Whenever a woman is in travail she has sorrow, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she remembers the anguish no more, for joy that a child has been born into the world.

22 Therefore you too now have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one takes your joy away from you."

3.) The Love Of God

Jn. 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Paul prayed with joy for all that God has done.

Phil. 1:4 "always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all"

If we always are joyful of what God has done for us we will always want to thank Him for it, and will be of an attitude of prayer.

1 Thess. 5:16-18 "Rejoice always;

17 pray without ceasing;

18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

4.) Salvation

We should be joyous at our salvation, freedom from sin, and life eternal.

Acts 8:39 "And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing."

Joy when we repent and are restored.

Ps. 51:12 "Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit." the heavenly hosts rejoice at our salvation

Luke 15:7 "I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

Joy awaits eternally if we are faithful, along with a measure of joy here on earth.

Matt. 25:21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.'"

5.) Fellowship With God And Christ

Gladness instead of mourning for those in Christ.

Ps. 30:10-12 "Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me; O LORD, be Thou my helper."

11 Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing; Thou hast loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness;

12 That my soul may sing praise to Thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to Thee forever."

The kingdom of God is spiritual, and includes many blessings

Rom. 14:17 "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

Just think of all the spiritual blessings for the faithful.

6.) Trials

Jas. 1:2-4 "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

1 Pet. 1:6-8 "In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

7 that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.
for the momentary light affliction

2 Cor. 4:17 “For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison”