

The Fruit of JOY!!

Galatians 5:22

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction:

- Happiness is.....?
- Happiness is elusive, hard to find in this world.
- Happiness is found in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - When we initially come to faith in Christ, we experience joy.—Acts 8:39
 - Joy flows from our continuing love for Christ.—1 Peter 1:8

The Fruit of JOY!!

A. The Distinction between “happiness” and “joy”

1. “Happiness” is based on favorable human circumstances.
2. “Joy” is an attitude of the heart based on spiritual realities, and is a fruit of the Spirit.

B. The Foundation for Joy

1. Our God is a God of JOY—Ps. 16:11; 43:4
2. Christ desires for us to experience His joy by being filled with the Spirit—John 15:11; 17:13
3. Being joyful, though, is OUR choice. Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16

C. The Production of JOY: How can we experience Spirit-produced joy?

1. Obedience to God’s Word brings joy.

- a. When we obey the command to love, we will experience joy.—John 15:11
- b. When we obey God’s Word even though we might suffer, we will experience joy—1 Thess. 1:5
1 John 1:4
- c. Nothing robs us of joy like unconfessed, covered-up sin. Example: David
 - 1) He was miserable when he covered up his sin.—Ps. 32:3-4
 - 2) His joy was restored when he repented and no longer covered up his sin—Ps. 51:7-12
- d. Nothing brings greater joy to a pastor or parent than to see their children obeying the truth. 3 John 4

2. Submission to God’s Will brings joy!

- a. Sometimes God’s will includes suffering and trials.—1 Peter 4:19
- b. To be joyful in times of suffering, we need divine perspective to see beyond today.
 - 1) The disciples “sorrow” turned to “joy”—John 16:20-22
 - 2) Jesus as the prime example of one who had divine perspective in suffering. Hebrews 12:2
 - 3) We need divine perspective in our suffering—James 1:2-4; Matt. 5:11-12; Heb. 10:34

3. Petitions to the Father brings joy!

- a. “Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full”—John 16:23-24
- b. God does not honor every request that we make.
 - 1) He does not answer selfish prayers—James 4:3
 - 2) He answers requests that are in line with His will and Word—1 John 5:14-15
- c. While God is ultimately concerned with our holiness, He is also interested in our happiness. Matt. 7

4. Service in God’s Work brings joy!

- a. We experience joy in serving Jesus together.—John 4:36
- b. We experience personal joy...
 - 1) In our personal accomplishments for the Lord—Galatians 6:4
 - 2) As we give generously to God’s Work—2 Corinthians 9:6-7