

## Fruit on the Vine: Joy Galatians 5:16-24

### INTRODUCTION

We continue our study on the **Fruit of the Spirit**. What is the fruit of the Spirit? **It's not nine different ways to live a better life. It is the character of Jesus that God grows in you.**

***For this morning, we continue to look at this nine-flavored fruit in detail as we consider the fruit of joy.***

There is such a lack of joy in the world today. **Sure, there is plenty of laughter and entertainment, but that all fades away as soon as the movie is over, or you turn off the TV.** So many people are unhappy, dissatisfied, and unfulfilled. They get angry and upset over so many things. They keep looking for joy in all the wrong places – places like money, power, or pleasure. Well, here's the deal. Money can't buy you love, and it can't buy you joy either!

Now, it makes sense that there would be a lack of joy in the world. But it doesn't make any sense for the church or for the Christian. **As believers in Jesus, we should be joy-filled not joyless.** Joy is part of the fruit of the Spirit and will be a natural part of our lives when we are connected to the Vine.

**Like the other fruit of the Spirit, joy is not something we produce on our own. Rather, it is a supernatural result of belonging to the One who is pure joy.**

I. Joy \_\_\_\_\_: what is \_\_\_\_\_?

The word itself is not terribly complicated to **define**. It is basically synonymous with happiness, gladness, or what older theologians called "***blessedness***". The authoritative Greek lexicon (or wordbook) defines the Greek word translated "***joy***" here as "***the experience of gladness***."

So, is joy the same as happiness? Well, yes and no.

A. \_\_\_\_\_ joy

1. Times of \_\_\_\_\_

2. Times of \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ joy

5. The joy of \_\_\_\_\_

So, what's the **difference**? The difference is not **between happiness and joy themselves, but between the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of our joy/happiness.**

B. \_\_\_\_\_ joy

*What's peculiar...special about Christian joy?*

1. Christian joy is not \_\_\_\_\_ on  
circumstances (Habakkuk 3:17-18;  
2 Cor 7:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

2. Christian joy is a \_\_\_\_\_ you  
make (Psalm 32:11; Philippians 4:4)

3. Joy comes from \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (Psalm 5:11, 105:3;  
James 1:2-3)

## CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning?

How about **this**: Joy draws from \_\_\_\_\_ and leads to  
\_\_\_\_\_. Joy brings \_\_\_\_\_ to God, helps you  
\_\_\_\_\_ to those around you with a God-honoring,  
**Christ-exalting** \_\_\_\_\_ and will bring you \_\_\_\_\_  
the hard times.