

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS JOY - PART II
GALATIANS 5:2

In the New Testament

A. "Chara"

1. Cheerfulness, a delight, gladness,
2. To jump for joy
3. To exalt
4. The word is tied to the spiritual realm
5. Luke 2:10; 1 Peter 4:13
6. What does this word indicate about joy?

I. WHAT ABOUT SUCH JOY?

A. It is the desire of Christ that we have this joy John 15:11

B. We are to have this joy always Philippians 4:4

C. We are to find such joy at salvation Luke 19:6

D. There is joy at baptism Acts 8:39

E. There is joy in trials James 1:2

F. There is joy in being persecuted Acts 5:41

G. This joy is our strength Nehemiah 8:10

H. There is joy at the reading of the word of God Nehemiah 8:5-10

I. There is joy at the preaching of Christ Philippians 1:18

J. Such joy ought to be full in us John 15:11

K. The greatest example of joy is Christ

1. Isaiah 53 a man of sorrows
2. Hebrews 12:2
3. Christ never lost His joy

L. The kingdom of heaven involves joy Romans 14:17

II. HOW DO WE GAIN SUCH JOY?

A. Such joy is the fruit of the Spirit Romans 14:17; 1 Thessalonians 1:6;
Galatians 5:22, 16

1. Am I depending upon the Holy Spirit or myself?

2. Am I walking in the direction of the Holy Spirit?
3. Is the Holy Spirit dominating in every aspect of my life?

B. Joy is a choice

1. Proverbs 17:22
2. There is a difference between joy and happiness
 - a. Happiness is related to life going well, conditions being positive
 - b. Joy is not based on the outside but the inside
3. Joy - "It is not based upon circumstances; it is based upon attitude...Pain is inevitable, but misery is optional. We cannot avoid pain, but we can avoid joy. God has given us such immense freedom that He will allow us to be as miserable as we want to be...I know some people who spend their entire lives practicing being unhappy...They get more mileage from having people feel sorry for them than from choosing to live out their lives in the context of joy."

C. Joy is a command 1 Thessalonians 5:16

D. Salvation should bring us joy Psalm 51:5

1. Rev. 2:1-7
2. "chara" (joy) and "charis" (grace) are closely related
3. Because we experience God's grace, we can experience God's joy

4. We lose our joy when we lose sight of the wonder of our salvation

E. Joy comes as a result of contentment

1. Contentment in the midst of suffering Philippians 2:17; Romans 5:3 :exalt" can mean to rejoice
2. Contentment in midst of disappointment Habakkuk 3:16-18
3. Contentment in the midst of needs Philippians 4:17
4. Let God do what He is going to do and rejoice in that

F. Joy comes from gratitude for God's care and provision Deuteronomy 16:10-14

G. Joy comes from prayer John 16:23,24

H. Joy comes from the word of God Nehemiah 8:9-18; Jeremiah 15:16

I. Joy comes from our relationship and walk with God

1. 1 John 1:4
2. John 15:7-11

J. Joy comes from our faith

1. Psalm 30:5
2. Psalm 42:4,5

K. Joy is expressed

1. James 5:13
2. In our worship of God
3. In our words to God
4. In our obedience to God

L. Joy comes from God John 15:11

1. It is a joy that is His - "my"
2. It is a joy that is complete - "full"
3. It is a joy that is continual - "may be"
4. It is a joy that we may have today