
The Fruit of Joy (The Strength Of Life)

The Fruit of Holiness

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Sermon: The Fruit of Holiness: The Fruit of Joy (The Strength Of Life)

New Series Messages: “The Fruit of the Holy Spirit II (Producers)”

- Galatians 5:22–23 (AV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- **What’s the purpose of each element, and how do we produce and use them?**
- Sermon: The Fruit of Love (Conquering Hate)
 - Definition: Self-Sacrificing, Unconditional Love that Never Fails
 - Purpose: Conqueror Hate so that We can Draw Haters
 - Produce: Exercising and Using It Against Hate

Lesson Text

Luke 6:20–23 (AV)²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, **Blessed *be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.* ²¹ Blessed *are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled.* Blessed *are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.* ²² Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you *from their company*, and shall reproach *you*, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man’s sake. ²³ Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward *is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.***

Nehemiah 8:10 (AV)¹⁰ Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for *this day is holy* unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Introduction

When done properly, the lifestyle of holiness is a work that produces the Fruit of the Spirit.

Last week we looked at the first element of the Fruit of the Spirit, Love. Today we will look at the second, Joy.

The Fruit of the Spirit is divided into three categories:

1. Love, Joy, and Peace (Deals with our Relationship with God)
2. Longsuffering, Gentleness, and Goodness (Deals with our Relationship with Each other)
3. Faith, Meekness, and Temperance (Deals with our Relationship with Ourselves)

The way we want to begin to understand and explore Joy is to juxtapose it with Happiness.

Most people think of joy as happiness, but true joy is an element of the fruit of the Spirit, and happiness is not.

People become happy when things are going well in their lives: Getting a job or promoted, receiving money or an increase, finding love or getting married, and so on.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

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The next 7 verses goes on to teach us about 28 seasons of life: “a time to be born, time to die; time to plant, pluck up; weep, life, mourn, or dance...”. 14 of these seasons are good or happy times, but 14 of them bad or unhappy. In other words, half of our life will not be “happy”.

A Pastor went to the Hospital to visit one of his female members who had just had her third amputation. He walked into the room expected to see her depressed, but instead found her in good spirits. And as he thought about what he would say to console her, she looked up and said to him, Pastor, I always knew I was going to go to heaven, I just didn't know it would be one piece at a time.

This woman not only had strength of God’s Joy during a distressful time of life, she was able to demonstrate that Joy to those around her.

Supernatural Joy is produced through the Holy Spirit to give us strength when the down seasons of life would zip the life right out of us!

Series and Sermon: The Fruit of Holiness: The Fruit of Joy (The Strength Of Life)

“The Definition, Purpose, and Production of Joy”

I. The Definition of Joy

What is Joy within the Fruit of the Spirit?

Luke 6:23 (AV)²³ **Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.**

As we stated earlier, Joy is not Happiness; because happiness flees during the downturns of life. And unfortunately, half of the seasons of life are downturns.

Joy has its secret within itself, untouchable and completely independent of all the chances and circumstances of life. However, the root word of happiness is "hap", which means chance. Happiness is completely dependent on life's chances.

Happiness only happens when life happens to line up with the things that happen to make you happy! Therefore, it is constantly temporary, fleeting, momentary, transitory, short-term and short-lived.

True joy on the other hand is a permanent. It doesn’t come and go based on the vicissitudes of life: the variations, fluctuations, deviations, and changes of life!

The Definition of Godly Joy is a Permanent Delight from the Lord, Independent of Life’s Chances

Psalm 30:5 (AV)⁵ For his anger *endureth* but a moment; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.

As life takes a downturn during the trouble of our night season, God’s Joy always comes at our darkest moments to shine through.

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It's independent of Life, because it doesn't come from Life, it comes from the Lord.

Things that make us happy, situations that make us happy, people that make us happy will change, fail, disappoint, and even leave us.

Hebrews 13:5 (AV)⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

So, if God will never leave us, His Joy will always be with us.

“The World didn't give it, and the World can't take it away!”

II. The Purpose of Joy

Whereas Joy is defined as a permanent delight from the Lord; What is its purpose?

Luke 6: 20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, **Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. 22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.**

What we see here is people who are poor, hungry, weeping, and hated. It speaks to those seasons of life where we experience downturns.

2 Corinthians 4:8–9 (AV)⁸ *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;*

If we are to win the world, we can't spend half of our life depressed, distressed, in despair, forsaken, and defeated.

The purpose of God's Joy is to Strengthen us when Life would Destroy us

What causes us to not be distress during trouble, not in despair when we don't have answers, not feel forsaken when persecuted, or not be destroyed or defeated when cast down is God's Joy

Nehemiah 8:10 (AV)¹⁰ Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for *this day is holy* unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

We will have trouble, persecution, affliction, and struggles; but our Joy during these times will be an example of God's power to the World.

Psalms 34:19 (AV)¹⁹ Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

III. The Production of Joy

True Joy comes from the Lord and is Independent of Life's Circumstances. God provides it through the Holy Spirit to us to strengthen us when Life would destroy us.

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But how do we get it or produce it when we need it the most?

Luke 6:23 (AV)²³ Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward *is* great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

Too many people wait on life to change in order to be happy, but God doesn't tell us to wait on life to change to be happy, He says Leap for Joy when you need it!.

We Produce Joy by Leaping for it during times of Trouble

To Leap for Joy means to Rejoice and Praise God through your trouble. You have to leap because trouble pulls you down, persecution depresses you, life casts you down; So Leap!

James 1:2–3 (AV)² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

In other words, don't allow life to keep you down, depressed, frustrated, troubled, or distressed; but look at it as an opportunity for you to Leap and produce more Joy.

Hebrews 13:15 (AV)¹⁵ By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

Psalms 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.

When you have Trouble, Leap for Joy

When you are Perplexed, Leap for Joy

When you are Persecuted, Leap for Joy

When you are Cast Down, Leap for Joy

Leap until God shows up, Leap until Joy shows up, Leap until Power show up, Leap until your Anointing shows up, Leap until the Spirit of the Lord shows up, Leap until the Blessings of the Lord show up.

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Fruit of Joy (The Strength of Life))

Lesson Text

- Luke 6:20–23, Nehemiah 8:10

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *The Definition of Joy*

II. *The Purpose of Joy*

III. *The Production of Joy*

Questions

I. **Getting to Know “Me”**

1. Share a memory or photo that boosts your happiness whenever you think of or see it. No matter what else is going on this memory or photo always makes you smile.
2. If Disney World is the happiest place on earth, what would you say is the most joyful “location” for you? (Hint: It may be a physical location or not.)

II. **Into the Bible**

1. Hebrews 13:15: “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.” What is a sacrifice? What were the sacrifices under the Old Covenant? What does the sacrifice of praise indicate?
2. We see “the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name” in Heb. 13:15 and “his praise shall continually be in my mouth” in Psalm 34:1, respectively. What is the importance of the words we speak as it relates to the Fruit of joy?

III. **Life Application**

1. Jesus is the source of our joy. In what ways can we express our joy so that others may see it and in turn see God?
2. Think of a past circumstance that was not joyful. What will you do differently if you experience another unpleasant circumstance?