

Fruit of the Spirit - Week 2 (Galatians 5:22-23)

October Memory Verse: Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV) ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Nehemiah 8:10 (ESV) “...for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

1. Joy is a gift of God.

John 15:10-11 (ESV) ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Romans 14:17 (ESV) For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV) ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:16-17 (ESV) ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

2. Godly joy is not manufactured.

Matt. 19:16-22 (ESV) ¹⁶ And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” ¹⁷ And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸ He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁰ The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” ²¹ Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven;

and come, follow me.” ²² When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

James 1:2-4 (ESV) ² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Phil. 4:12-13 (ESV) ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

3. Godly joy defines and defends our lives.

John 15:11 (ESV) *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

Hebrews 12:1-3 (ESV) *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.*

John 17:4-5 (ESV) ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

1 Peter 1:8-9 (ESV) *Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

4. Living out joy in a world that seems to lack it.

Acts 13:47-52 (ESV) ⁴⁷ *For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, “ I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”* ⁴⁸ *And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.* ⁴⁹ *And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.* ⁵⁰ *But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.* ⁵¹ *But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium.* ⁵² *And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

Interpretation: Follow-up questions.

- How would you define joy? Is your definition rooted in the temporal and conditional or in the Lord?
- How is the joy of the Lord a gift from God?
- How might we contrast worldly joy and godly joy? (Galatians 5:16-23)
- How can we make sure our joy is Spirit-filled, and not manufactured?
- How does joy define and defend our lives?
- What does Acts 13 teach us about godly joy? How can we apply this to our lives?

Application: Action Steps- Assess your life and look for any areas that you have allowed your joy to be defined by the things of this world. Take time to reassess godly joy in your life. Commitment to gain Christ-centered joy. In response to this commitment, read the book of Philippians.