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The Fruit Of The Spirit - Joy

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A word was given regarding His presence bringing joy, one of the fruit of the spirit.

"If you come into my presence, everything that you need you will find there, for there is fullness of joy, for there is the path of life, I will show you what you need and I will heal your life."

Psalms 16:11 "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." KJV

The following scriptures are the foundation scriptures for this teaching of the fruit of the spirit.

Gal 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, 23 Gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge]." AMP

Gal 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." KJV

John 15:4-5 "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." KJV

Paul was teaching the Galatians regarding the fruit of the spirit, but because of them being under the law prior to their receiving Jesus and having all the do's and don'ts, they begin to use their freedom to fulfill the lust of the flesh. He was teaching that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit were all these things that the fruit of the spirit is. That He is the vine and we are the branches bearing the fruit. Bearing fruit does not happen overnight, but is over a period of time and we will have to be courageous in order to bear fruit.

Eph 5:9 "For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)" KJV

Sowing to the spirit will bring the harvest that will be good, but if we continue to sow to the flesh it will only bring corruption.

God wants us to live out the fruit of the spirit, wanting us to take on and bear the fruit and character of Jesus. All these things are the fruit of our recreated spirit.

It is hard to determine which of the fruit of the spirit is the most important and as we begin to study, thinking that love was the most important, we find that we cannot live a full life without having joy. Joy operates in us in the midst of adversity and challenging times.

The fruit of the spirit is as supernatural as the gifts of the spirit. It is not natural to walk in love when being mistreated nor have joy when going through the challenges in our lives. Joy in the

life of a believer, is that virtue that enables one to be strong in the midst of adversity and much like a rudder on a ship keeping it on course. Joy is like a flashlight showing the way or direction through the darkness when we are faced with trouble and suffering. The believers object of joy is in God, it is not in another persons behavior, everlasting joy is in God, God never changes, there is no shadow or variableness in Him and as we began to produce joy in our lives there will be a change in our attitude. Joy is the opposite of discouragement or depression, without the fruit of joy in our lives, we will be downcast.

Neh 8:10 "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." KJV

Joy is not based on emotions or what is going on. There can be a season in our lives that we have the opportunity to be oppressed because of things not going well. It is supernatural to be joyful in the midst of problems and trouble. It is God's plan for us to be overcomers and champions in our lives. Champions are made in the "practice pens", champions are not necessarily made in church, knowledge may be received, but it is what you do with that knowledge later that makes a champion. The doer of the word is the one that is blessed. God never tries or proves us with evil, His way is with obedience. The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy, pulling us down, God comes to lift us up.

1 Pet 1:6-8 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:" KJV

Eph 6:10 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." KJV

Joy means to exalt, leaping and skipping excessively and with delight and leaping forward with joy. Going forward means making progress.

Being strong and in the power of his might, is putting on the whole armor of God. Being able to stand against the devil, singing and praising the Lord. If the devil can't steal your joy, he can't keep your goods. Praising the Lord will turn cursing into blessings. Joy always has hope with it and until we develop the fruit of joy, we will continue to make "trips around the mountain".

Jer 15:16 "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts." KJV

Deut 28:47 "Because thou servedst not the Lord thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;" KJV

The 28th chapter of Deuteronomy lists all the blessings and curses, God wants to overtake you with His goodness, but with the curses unless we have joyfulness for all things, we shall not have any blessings bestowed on us and what we do have will be taken away. We can completely trust the Lord, He is for us and not against us.

John 17:13 "And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves." KJV

Heb 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." KJV

Jesus endured all the challenges and ridicule of life, because He never lost sight of where He was headed and never lost His joy, He kept looking for the end result for the will of God. There is a power that comes, joy is always associated with hope, leaping forward. The end result is always so much greater than what the former life had to offer.

Heb 3:17-19 "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. 19 The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments." KJV

John 15:11 "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." KJV

There are things which bring us joy especially in the midst of adversity.

Acts 16:24-26 "Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. 25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed." KJV

Paul and Silas had been placed in prison because of their ministry that had offended several people and the deliverance of a young lady. However, they were able to pray and sing praises despite them being placed in stocks and they were full of joy and as they praised the Lord, He opened the prison doors setting them free, not only were they free, but the prison guards and the other prisoners came to know Jesus. They chose not to complain about the circumstances, it being a midnight hour for them, but were able to pray and sing praises to the Lord.

There is not a midnight hour that is dark enough for us that can hold back the power of God coming into our lives when we begin to pray and sing praise unto Him. We are not unworthy because Jesus has made us worthy.

Hab 1:14 "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" KJV

God has a purpose when He delivers us from our midnight hour; He has a plan and purpose for each of us. There appears to be a stirring going on and if we could see into the spiritual world around us, we would see the ministering spirits sent to help us through the midnight hours in our life. The angels have come to minister to and for us. Waiting for the believers to put a demand on them but we would also see demonic spirits waiting to get in, but they can't come in. There is a dome or covering, a huge umbrella over us.

Example was given of Smith Wigglesworth, his ministry and how he showed joy in his life, dancing and praising God every morning before he started his day.

Joy is so important in a believers life, keeps them steady, keeping them on course in the midst of the storm, never losing sight of where they are headed.

Hab 3:1 "A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, set to wild, enthusiastic, and triumphal music." AMP

Hab 3:17-19 "Though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines, [though] the product of the olive fails and the fields yield no food, though the flock is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls, 18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the [victorious] God of my salvation! 19 The Lord God is my Strength, my personal bravery, *and* my invincible army; He makes my feet like hinds' feet and will make me to walk [not to stand still in terror, but to walk] *and* make [spiritual] progress upon my high places [of trouble, suffering, or responsibility]!" AMP

We don't have any responsibilities that are bigger than God's blessing. God's blessings are bigger than any cares and anxieties that we might be facing. The darkness is going to flee away because of our praising and worship of the Lord and the glory of the Lord is going to come like a flood not as a trickle not like a stream or river, but a flood. Making our feet like a hinds feet. The devil can't box us in, the Lord is making a way for us if we will just make an effort wherever we go, He will cause us to walk and make spiritual progress, He will not allow us to be run over or cast down and defeated in the name of Jesus and in the midst of all lack if we continue to praise the Lord. RAK only victory!

