



Living Walking Serving

FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY NOTE ON

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER – THE HOLY SPIRIT (Joel 2:28-32, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4, 2:16-21)

STUDY 19-12: THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – JOY

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Gal.5:23-23, Rom. 14:17, 1Pet.1:8, Hab. 3:17-18. Ps.30:5, Acts 16:22-25, James 1:2-4, Phil.4:4, 1Sam.2:1, Acts 12:14, Luke 1:46- 47, 10:20, Acts 13:52; 15:3, Acts 8:8, Luke 15:7, 2Cor.1:24; 2:3; 7:4; 1Thess.2:19-20; 3:9

INTRODUCTION

The Greek word for joy is chara. Joy is the natural reaction to the work of God, whether promised or fulfilled. Joy expresses God's kingdom—His influence on earth (Rom. 14:17). The Greek chara is closely related to charis, which means "grace" or "a gift." Chara is the normal response to charis—we have joy because of God's grace. The next step in the progression is to allow our joy to become an action as we express it, although sometimes joy can be so great that it is inexpressible (1 Peter 1:8).

Joy in the NT is virtually always used to signify a feeling of "happiness" that is based on spiritual realities (and independent of what "happens"). Joy is not an experience that comes from favorable circumstances but is God's gift to believers. Hab. 3:17-18. Ps.30:5,

Joy is an inner gladness; a deep-seated pleasure. It is a depth of assurance, hope and confidence that all will end well. This ignites a cheerful heart. It is this cheerful heart that leads to cheerful behavior. Acts 16:22-25, James 1:2-4, Phil.4:4

Joy is a part of God's very essence and His Spirit manifests this supernatural joy in His children

Joy is the deep-down sense of well-being that abides in the heart of the person who knows all is well between himself and the Lord.

Joy and happiness: They are related but not the same.

- 1) Happiness is temporary, but joy is everlasting.
- 2) Happiness depends on **good** happenings, circumstances or other people, but joy is a gift from God.
- 3) Happiness is from the external (worldly), but joy is internal from the Divine.

The Spirit's production of joy can manifest in several different ways:

The joy of deliverance: When God sets someone free, rejoicing is in order.

1Sam.2:1: Hannah was filled with joy at her deliverance from her enemies.

Acts 12:14: The servant girl was so overjoyed that God had rescued Peter from prison that she forgot to let Peter in the house.

The joy of salvation: Our greatest reason to be joyful is that God wants to save us and spend eternity with us. Nothing is better than this. Lk.1:46- 47, 10:20

Lk. 15:7: All heaven is joyful when a person accepts God's provision of salvation.

Acts 8:8: The people of Samaria were joyful as they heard the gospel and saw God's power in healing the sick.

Acts 13:52; 15:3: Jewish believers rejoiced when they heard of the work of the Holy Spirit in saving Gentiles.

The joy of spiritual maturity: As the Holy Spirit works in us to bear more fruit, we become confident in God's promises and rejoice in our walk with Him and with other believers.

John 15:11: The fullness of joy comes to those who continue in the love of Christ and obey Him. 2Cor.1:24; 2:3; 7:4; 1Thess.2:19-20; 3:9: Paul knew joy as the churches gave evidence of the Holy Spirit working among them.

Philippians 2:2: Groups of believers who unite in demonstrating the mind, love, and purpose of Christ bring joy to others.

Hebrews 10:34; 12:2; James 1:2-4: Believers, following the example of Jesus, endure persecution because of the promise of future joy.

The joy of God's presence: The Holy Spirit draws us to God, in whose presence we can know true joy. Without the Holy Spirit, no one would seek God.

Psalms 16:11: "You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."

Matthew 2:10; Luke 1:14: Mary and the shepherds were joyful because Immanuel had been born.

Matthew 28:8; Luke 24:41: The women who went to Jesus' tomb and the disciples were overjoyed that He rose from the dead.

Nehemiah 8:10: We derive our strength from the joy of being in God's presence

How to maximize our joy

- Repentance brings joy (Lk 15:7, 10).
- The hope (absolute assurance) of future glory brings joy (1Pe 4:13).
- The Lord's Word brings joy (John 15:11).
- Prayer brings joy (John 16:24).
- The presence and fellowship of believers brings joy (1Jn 1:3-4).
- Converts bring joy (Lk 15:5; Php 4:1; 1Th. 2:19-20)
- Hearing that those you have mentored are discipled are walking in the truth brings joy (3Jn 4).
- Giving brings joy (2Co 8:2; cp Heb 10:34).
- Fellowship with Father and Son brings joy - we need to "keep short accounts" by confessing our sins so that this fellowship is not adversely effected (1Jn 1:3, 4, 1Jn 1:9)

NEXT: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT - PEACE