

Fruit of the Spirit — Part 2

Steve Berger July 30, 2017

Review

Last week we started series on the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22-23.

- **Galatians 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- **How do we receive the Fruit of the Spirit?**

- **John 15:4-8**

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

- abide in Me — I in you— three times
- can't do anything without Me — three times — no fruit can be produced through our own labor
- with Me bear much Kingdom fruit — two times — in and through us

The Fruit of the *Spirit* will only happen as we abide, ask, accept.

“Fruit is always the miraculous, the created; it is never the result of willing, but always a growth. The fruit of the Spirit is a gift of God, and only He can produce it. They who bear it know as little about it as the tree knows of its fruit. They know only the power of Him on whom their life depends.”¹

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“The fruit of the Spirit is not what we can make ourselves do for a moment, but what God makes us to be for a lifetime.”²

Pastor Wayne Jacobson

The Fruit of the *Spirit* happens through abiding — not agonizing!

First Fruit of the Spirit — Love

- **Galatians 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- **Last week was LOVE** — it is listed first due to its priority in life. ***LOVE is the primary proof that the Holy Spirit is transforming your life*** — then the rest of the fruits follow.

¹ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (Simon and Schuster, 2012) p. 285

² Wayne Jacobson, *retrieved from www.goodreads.com*

“His love is the soil in which all the fruits of the Spirit grow. When our roots abide there, then joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control grow naturally in our hearts.”³
Pastor J.D. Greear

Next Fruit of the Spirit — Joy = Calm Delight, Anchored Gladness, Settled Satisfaction

So important — **joy** is a much deeper spiritual reality than **happiness** — don't think they are the same. Joy is not as conditional and fleeting as happiness. I'm not knocking happiness, it's fine — *we must go deeper than happiness to experiencing joy!*

JOY IS ROOTED IN EXPERIENCING GOD'S LOVE

- “God's love, when personally experienced, is incapable of producing a joyless life.”

Consider why God's love would produce joy —

- **God's love initiated the relationship with you** — He didn't wait for you...
- **1 John 4:9-10**
In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Application — *we didn't first love God, He loved us and sent Jesus to pay for our sins and give us life!*

- **God's love produced mercy to save you**
- **Ephesians 2:1-5**
And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

Application — *prior to Jesus we were a devilish train wreck — but God's great love for us produced mercy in Him to save us — oh the love of God!*

- **God's love is everlasting**
- **Jeremiah 31:3**
The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore, with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

When you abide in that love, ask to know it more, accept it as fact — **JOY happens!**
Holy Spirit produces a **Calm Delight, Anchored Gladness, Settled Satisfaction** in Jesus.

JOY IS NOT DEPENDENT UPON FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

- different than happiness — we must know joy — and not seek nor settle for mere happiness.
Holy Spirit wants deeper!

³ J.D. Greear, retrieved from www.goodreads.com

- **2 Corinthians 8:1-2**

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.

***Application** — great trial affliction, abundance of joy, deep poverty... (joy in the middle)*

- **1 Thessalonians 1:5-7**

For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

Application** — much affliction didn't overcome joy, joy of the Holy Spirit overcame affliction, they became examples... **we need examples!

- **Hebrews 10:32-34**

But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

***Application** — great struggle with sufferings, made spectacle with reproaches and tribulations, **joyfully accepted plundering of goods**, knowing a better and enduring possession in heaven... "take it, I'm not bound to this world or its stuff, I've got something waiting for me in heaven that far eclipses all this."*

Joy, rooted in God's matchless love, **isn't dependent on circumstances** —
it **overcomes them**, helps you **be an example**,
gives you **eternal perspective**. We need some **joy** —
abide, ask, accept!

Joy can't be stolen —

- **John 16:22**

...and your joy no one will take from you.

But joy CAN be forfeited —

- by not abiding, by cutting self off from the life-giving, fruit-producing vine
- living in sin: King David wrote the following Psalm following his involvement with adultery, pregnancy, murder, denial — forfeited his joy!
- **Psalm 51:10-12**
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

Wake up — if you have forfeited joy by not abiding in Jesus, or living in sin —
repent and ask God to restore to you the joy of your salvation.
He will!

JOY IS FOR YOU!

- **Luke 2:10**
Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. [ALL PEOPLE]
- **John 15:9-11**
As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 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. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

Application — *abide in love, three times, His joy remains — our joy is full — isn't He good?*

- **Romans 15:13**
Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

"The Lord Jesus is a deep sea of joy; my soul shall dive therein, and shall be swallowed up in the delights of His society." ⁴ Charles Spurgeon
- **Psalms 16:11**
In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

*Calm Delight, Anchored Gladness, Settled Satisfaction,
Fullness of Joy awaits us in the presence of God —
Abide, Ask, Accept —
and let the Holy Spirit produce joy unspeakable and full of glory in your life!*

Discussion Questions

1. So many times we take John 15:7 out of context, "ask what you desire, and it will be done for you." What is Jesus really talking about here?
2. Why does "love" have priority as the first fruit of the spirit?
3. "Calm Delight, Anchored Gladness, Settled Satisfaction" — what are other ways that you have defined "joy"?
4. To reiterate once again — what is the difference between "happiness" and "joy"? Can you tell the difference in how you experience them in your own life?
5. Respond to this statement, "God's love, when personally experienced, is incapable of producing a joyless life."
6. If you are experiencing a "less than joy-filled life," what can you do about it?

⁴ Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *Devotional Classic of C.H. Spurgeon* (Sovereign Grace Publishers, 2008) 15