

The Fruit of the Spirit: Joy

Various texts

What is Joy?

- It is NOT an emotion
 - Unlike happiness
- Joy is the choice
 - Like love
- It is about how we choose to see our circumstances
- Biblical joy is choosing to respond to external circumstances with inner contentment and satisfaction, because we know that God will use these experiences to accomplish His work in and through our lives

Joy in Trials (Rom. 5:3-5)

- Joy can be found in trials and suffering because of our perspective on what God is doing through them
- God uses hardships to help produce endurance (see Jas. 1:2-4, 12)
 - Which produces character
 - Which produces hope
- And all of this is rooted in God's love for us
 - Evidenced by the Holy Spirit's presence in us

Real Joy

- This joy is not humanly manufactured
 - It is from the Lord Himself (Neh. 8:10b)
 - And the reason it part of the fruit of the Spirit
- And this joy, regardless of circumstances, should lead us to praise God

So What?

- Are we letting God change our perspective?
 - Helping us to be joyful in all circumstances
 - Praising Him in every situation

Meditation Verse: Philippians 4:4