

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: WEEK 3

JOY

MEANING



***THE GREEK WORD FOR JOY IS CHARA.
CHARA (KAH-RAH) MEANS JOY, REJOICING, GLADNESS,
ENJOYMENT, BLISS; TO CELEBRATE.***

SCRIPTURE



ROMANS 14:17-18	1 SAMUEL 2:1	ACTS 12:12-17
LUKE 10:17-20	LUKE 15:4-7	PSALM 51:10-13
JOHN 15:9-11	1 THESSALONIANS 3:7-10	ACTS 13:52
PHILIPPIANS 2:1-5	HEBREWS 10:34-36	PSALM 16:11
1 CHRONICLES 16:27	PHILIPPIANS 4:4	NEHEMIAH 8:10
		JAMES 1:2-4

GOING DEEPER



JOY:

- The Greek word for JOY is **chara**.
- **Chara (kah-rah)** means JOY, rejoicing, gladness, enjoyment, bliss; to celebrate.
- JOY is the natural reaction to the work of GOD, whether promised or fulfilled.
- JOY expresses GOD's kingdom—His influence on earth.
- The JOY that GOD gives is NOT dependent on outward circumstances; things do not have to be just right in order for a Child of GOD to have JOY!
- His JOY does not fade even when we allow ours to.
- Even in the ebb and flow of life; His JOY remains the same!
- His JOY is perfect!
- As GOD is perfect; anything He would develop in us or any gift He would give is perfected!



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JOY & HAPPINESS:

- Happiness is a reaction to something great; JOY is the product of someone great.
- Worldly possessions, accomplishments, even the people in our lives, are blessings that make us happy and fuel joyfulness; the source of all JOY, is JESUS.
- GOD's plan from the beginning, the Word made flesh to dwell among us is rock solid, allowing us to navigate difficult situations in the absence of happiness, while sustaining our JOY.
- Happiness is more of a state of mind, while JOY is emotionally rooted in our faith in Christ.
- JESUS has experienced all pain, physically and emotionally.
- JOY is the settled assurance that GOD is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise GOD in every situation.
- JOY allows us perspective to trust GOD with our daily lives.
- Happiness is attached to the blessings in our lives.
- Eventually, we stop laughing. But JOY sustains our reactions and fleeting feelings.
- 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.
- The Spirit's production of JOY can manifest in several different ways:

WAYS THE JOY OF THE LORD WILL MANIFEST IN OUR LIVES:

THE JOY OF DELIVERENCE:

- When GOD sets someone free, rejoicing is in order.
- Hannah was filled with JOY at her deliverance from her enemies.
- The people were rejoicing when Peter arrived at the home of Mary; GOD had delivered him from prison!
- 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.
- The salvation of the soul must ALWAYS be an occasion for rejoicing!
- All heaven is Joyful when a person accepts GOD's provision of salvation.
- When JESUS was speaking of leaving the 99 sheep for the 1 lost; He was not referring to lazy Christians who want to be spoon fed and babied; He was referring to lost souls in need of a Savior!
- ***This should not be our crutch, Church!***
- Eternal salvation is a gift that can be given ONLY by GOD; it's only HIS to give; Salvation belongs to our GOD!
- Recognizing that salvation belongs to Christ helps us get out of ourselves; ***IT'S NOT ABOUT US!***
- We get so wrapped up in ourselves that we become the center of our own universe; Salvation is HIS; It's about HIM!
- Following Christ breaks the stronghold of ***SELF*** in our lives and put's ***HIM*** back in His rightful place on the throne; ***HE*** becomes the center of our universe!
- ***WE decrease; HE increases; JOY results!***



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.
- The fullness of JOY comes to those who continue in the love of Christ and obey Him.
- Paul rejoiced as the churches gave evidence of the Holy Spirit working among them.
- Believers who unite in demonstrating the mind, love, and purpose of Christ bring JOY to others.
- As we grow in The Holy Spirit, those around us will see and rejoice in our growth!
- 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.
- The Israelites experienced the JOY of GOD's presence in various ways, particularly through the tabernacle and the temple, where GOD's glory dwelled among His people.
- In **1 Chronicles 16:27**, it is written, ***"Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and JOY fill His dwelling."***
- The presence of GOD was a source of strength and JOY, a central aspect of worship and community life.
- In **John 15:11**, JESUS tells His disciples, ***"I have told you these things so that My JOY may be in you and your JOY may be complete."***
- Here, JESUS emphasizes that His teachings and His presence are intended to impart a complete and abiding JOY to His followers.
- The early church experienced the JOY of GOD's presence through the Holy Spirit.
- In **Acts 13:52**, it is recorded, ***"And the disciples were filled with JOY and with the Holy Spirit."***
- The indwelling of the Holy Spirit brought a profound sense of JOY, even amidst persecution and trials, as believers were assured of GOD's continual presence with them.
- The JOY of GOD's presence is a testimony to the world that as believers live out this JOY, they reflect the character of GOD and draw others to the hope and salvation found in Him.
- **Philippians 4:4** exhorts, ***"Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say Rejoice!"***
- This call to rejoice is a reminder that the JOY of GOD's presence is a continual and defining aspect of the Christian life.
- The JOY of GOD's presence also serves as a source of strength and encouragement.
- **Nehemiah 8:10** states, ***"Do not grieve, for the JOY of the LORD is your strength."***
- This verse underscores the sustaining power of divine JOY, which enables believers to endure hardships and remain steadfast in their faith.

GOING DEEPER CONT'D



- The JOY of The LORD does not wane or diminish with seasons and uncertainties of life.
- **THIS JOY** is rooted in the knowledge of GOD's sovereignty, love, and grace.
- **THIS JOY** is both a present reality and a future hope, as believers anticipate the fullness of JOY in the eternal presence of GOD.
- **Possessing JOY is a choice.**
- **We choose** whether to value GOD's presence, promises, and work in our lives.
- When we yield to the Spirit, He opens our eyes to GOD's grace around us and fills us with JOY.
- JOY is not to be found in a fallen world; it is only fellowship with GOD that can make our JOY complete (1 John 1:4).
- Satan does NOT want you living in the fullness of JOY that GOD gives.
- He knows that if we truly knew that GOD was our ONLY source of perfect JOY then we would no longer look to the things that Satan sends to trip us up and destroy us.
- Satan can only offer a cheap imitation or temporary fix for an eternal problem!
- GOD is our ONE and ONLY TRUE SOURCE OF JOY!!
- He has a plan; He is working and developing **HIS** perfected fruit in us.
- Even when it feels we've been abandoned, abused and mistreated; we must remember what He says to us in His Word: **COUNT IT ALL JOY!**

SCRIPTURE OF REFLECTION

JAMES 1: 2-4:

2. My brethren, count it all JOY when you fall into various trials,
3. knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.
4. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

REFLECTION/NOTES

