

Fruit-Filled Living (Pt.4)
“Ain’t That Just peachy?”

(Galatians 5:22)

“The fruit of the Spirit is ...joy”

Introduction: Peaches are the world’s third most popular fruit behind the apple & the orange. And peaches are good for us. In fact, the peach is so delightful that it has its own cliché – “*Isn’t that just peachy?*” = Isn’t that just wonderful? And just as “delight” is the character associated with the peach, so *Joy ought to characterize the life of every Christian*. The Apostle Paul tells us, “*The fruit of the Spirit is... Joy!*” But why? There are three reasons:

I. *Joy is promise of salvation:*

A. *Salvation is designed to bring us Joy* – (Rom 15:13)

Now, there are many kinds of joy are reported in the Bible. This makes it difficult to give a simple definition of joy.

In the N.T., by contrast, the primary word for Joy is *Chara*, occurring 60 times and rejoice occurs 72 times.

***Chara*—is the same root word for Grace (*Charis*)—**which is the basis of God’s unmerited favor and loving-kindness toward us (Eph.2:8,9) which is the cause for joy. *When God activates His sovereign grace upon us, the results are we experience His peace and Joy!* It is only when we come know God’s grace, that we can experience God’s joy!

1. *Think about the joy of salvation* –

- a. In Lk. 14 Jesus parable of salvation is of a banquet feast not a funeral –
- b. When the Ethiopian Eunuch believed – (Acts 8:39)
- c. When Jesus disciples came back rejoicing and Jesus said, (*Luke 10:20*)

2. *Think about the value of salvation* -

- a. We have joy because our sins are forgiven –
- b. We have joy because we are members of God’s family –
- c. We have joy because we’ll spend eternity in heaven –
- d. We have joy because we have the personal presence of the Lord in our lives-
- e. We have joy because there is a purpose & plan for my life –

a. ***Think about the hope of salvation* - Rom 5:2; 1 Pet 1:8**

- b. We have the hope (or promise) of seeing loved ones again –
- c. We have the hope (or promise) of seeing Jesus –
- d. We have the hope (or promise) that we cannot lose our salvation – but we can lose our joy! (Ps.51:12)

3. *Think about the fullness of salvation* – God has given us everything for our enjoyment – (1 Tim 6:17)

- a. This is why we are to... (*Phil 3:1; Phil 4:4; Ps 4:7*)
- b. So, when we read that the fruit of the Spirit is Joy, we are seeing that this joy is the kind of joy that rises above circumstances and focuses on what God has done for us! (Jn.10:10)

4. *Think about the overflow of salvation’s joy* –

- a. Joy is produced in us as we live for the Lord – (*John 15:10-11*)
- b. Living for the Lord produces internal joy – and this joy is expressed outwardly... (*James 5:13; Acts 20:24*)
- c. The joy of leading others to the Lord – (Phil.4:1; 1 Thess. 2:19-20)

II. *Joy is product of the spirit:*

When we consider the fruit of the spirit it stands in stark contrast to the product of the flesh.

- a. In the flesh that happiness & difficulties don’t go together –
- c. But when the Spirit is producing our joy... Joy & affliction can co-exist – Joy & sorrow can get along – even, Joy & suffering can jive –

1. *The Spirit can produce joy in times of suffering*

- a. Paul told the Colossians, Col. 1:24)
- b. The book of Philippians written from prison, is referred to as “the book of joy,” (*Phil 3:8-10*)
- c. The disciples counted it as joy to suffer persecution for their faith- (Acts 5:40-41)
- d. Paul & Barnabas rejoiced as the suffered rejection because of their faith (Acts 13:50-52)

This is not about some sadistic enjoyment of suffering. It is about realizing God uses everything that happens in my life to make me more like Jesus. (Rom.8:28)

2. *The Spirit can produce joy in times of trials* –

- a. James (Js.1:2) “*Why would I?*” (v. 3,4)
- b. The joy is in knowing what is coming – God’s perfecting you!

3. *The Spirit can produce joy in times of death* –

(*John 15:11; John 16:20-22; Jn 17:13; Heb. 12:2; Neh 8:10*)

In fact, there is no experience or circumstance in a believer’s life that can destroy this divine, supernatural spiritual fruit of Joy if we cooperate with The Holy Spirit to bring out His fruit in us!

III. *Joy is proof of the saint:*

A. *The fruit of the Spirit is joy* – which is to be a permanent, all-pervasive characteristic of the Christian.

- 1. Though it is produced by the Holy Spirit, it becomes the possession of the believer who is in right fellowship with God.
- 2. *Happiness is based on chance. Joy is based on choice. And the believer’s joy is...*

B. *The proof of the Spirit is joy* – Jesus demonstrated it, the disciples demonstrated it, Paul demonstrated it, early Christians demonstrated it (Act 2:47) (*Phil 4:4*) This is a standing order for the Christian.

***We have a choice and an option* –** choose to focus on what is wrong with life or choose to rejoice in all the blessings you have been given by our awesome God!