

Joy

Spirit-Wrought Gladness in God

Definition: Joy is the Spirit-wrought delight in God and settled gladness of the soul, rooted in what He has given, what He has promised, and who He is, so that the believer rejoices in Christ even when earthly circumstances are painful.

Growth Pattern

Joy often begins as conviction over false joys, blossoms into gratitude, forms into worship under trial, and ripens into settled gladness in God.

Growth factors	Dangers to watch
Stage 1: Grafted - Conviction I see that earthly comforts, approval, control, and success cannot carry my soul.	Danger 1: Grafted - Conviction Chasing quick happiness or assuming sadness means I lack real faith.
Stage 2: Flowering - Desire I want to rejoice in the Lord and remember what He has given and promised.	Danger 2: Flowering - Desire Mistaking natural cheerfulness or good circumstances for Spirit-produced joy.
Stage 3: Early Fruit - Costly Obedience I give thanks, resist grumbling, worship in trial, and speak hope to others.	Danger 3: Early Fruit - Costly Obedience Denying sorrow, forcing cheerfulness, or comparing myself to happier people.
Stage 4: Ripe Fruit - Settled Service I can be sorrowful yet rejoicing because Christ, His promises, and future glory are secure.	Danger 4: Ripe Fruit - Settled Service Becoming insensitive to others' grief or proud of being steady.

Self-analysis:

Where do I see this fruit beginning or growing?

Where do I need to repent and abide in Christ?

What danger at this stage do I need to watch?

Who may need to taste this fruit from me?

One act of obedience or prayer this week:

Verses to consider regarding biblical Joy:

Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 4:4; Habakkuk 3:17-19; John 15:9-11; Romans 15:13; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-9