

Joy

I. Introduction-

- The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Gal 2:22
- You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8

A. Love, Joy, and peace defines our life-

- I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom 8:38
- These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. Jn 15:11
- The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. Jn 14:26

B. The fruit of love in and through our lives-

- Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory. I Pet 1:8

II. Living in supernatural joy in a world that is a kill joy-

- Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Jam 1:2

Joy= Chara, to rejoice, be glad, to rejoice exceedingly, to be well and to thrive

A. The battle of our flesh and the Holy Spirit inside of us-

- I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. Gal 5:16
- As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. Jam 5:10

Joy= Chara, **to rejoice, be glad, to rejoice exceedingly, to be well and to thrive**

- Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. Heb 12:1

B. The joy of our brothers and sisters today who are suffering various trials.

- "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Mat 5:10

III. Choose to see the world and our lives through God's worldview-

A. See the world through God's eyes-

- I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom 12:1

A. God gives us an accurate view of the world-

1. In the bible

- All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. II Tim 3:16

<https://www.gotquestions.org/why-should-I-believe-the-Bible.html>

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<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-reliable.html>

B. God gives us a foundation of facts and truth to build our lives on-

C. Building our Christian worldview-

- Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Rom 12:2

Christian worldview: the will of God rules overall and His will for each person is good, acceptable and perfect

Secular worldview: interprets life solely on principles taken from the natural material world

1. We can be conformed to a Christian worldview: the will of God rules overall and His will for each person is good, acceptable and perfect

- If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Col 3:1
- With full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Phil 1:3

2. We can be conformed to the secular worldview-

Conformed= to conform one's self (i.e. one's mind, character and pattern) to another's

- Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. II Cor 4:3
- If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Material for online and app

<https://www.gotquestions.org/why-should-i-believe-the-Bible.html>

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THE FACTS OF LIFE

A. Fact: there is an all-powerful, sovereign, holy God who loves me and who is working in me and through my life.

1. There is a God-

- Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. Heb 11:6
- They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Rom 1:19

2. God is all powerful-

- I am the LORD, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me? Jer 32:27
- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen 1:1
- The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. ² Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. ³ They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard.

⁴ Yet their message has gone throughout the earth, and their words to all the world. Ps 19:1

- You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. Ps 139:13

3. God is a personal being who is Holy-

- For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation. Ps 100:5
- He is the Rock; his deeds are perfect. Everything he does is just and fair. He is a faithful God who does no wrong; how just and upright he is! Deut 32:4

4. God is sovereign-

- The LORD has made the heavens his throne; from there he rules over everything. Ps 103:19
- We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps. Prov 16:9
- Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. I Thes 5:18

B. Fact: The bible is God's absolute inspired word telling us what is true, how to live and how to know and please Him -

- The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever. Ps 119:160

- All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. II Tim 6:16

C. Fact: Jesus is the Son of God who died for my sin and who is the way, the truth and the life and is my way to know His Father-

- Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. Jn 14:6
- For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. ¹⁹ It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. I Pet 1:18
- The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. I Cor 1:18

D. Fact: I have been adopted into God's family and a real personal relationship with God and Jesus and I am filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.
- Eph 1:4
- You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. Rom 8:15

E. Fact: God has given me every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus and He will do for me what the bible promises He will do-

- All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Eph 1:3
- God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through? Num 23:19
- Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. ²⁴ God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful. I Thes 5:23