



JOY

What a blessing we are enjoying now that we are back in full fellowship.

The theme for our new beginning will be the Fruits of the Spirit and our worship this Sunday, May 30, will be based on JOY.

To me, JOY is more of a feeling rather than a word that can be described. God's word contains many scriptures that describe this feeling. When an angel appeared to shepherds who were tending their flock at night, we read; "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great JOY that will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

Romans 15:13 tells us we will be filled with JOY when we trust in God.

We are a part of God's kingdom and Romans 14:17 says the kingdom of God is righteous, peace and JOY in the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 says there is no law against the fruits of the spirit of which JOY is one of them.

The children of Israel were told in Nehemiah 8:10 that the JOY of the Lord is your strength.

Good news of God's Kingdom brings JOY. When Paul and Barnabus were passing through Phoenicia and Samaria and reported the conversions of the Gentiles there was great JOY of the brethren. Acts 15:3

When many who were paralyzed or lame were healed by Philip in a city of Samaria, there was great JOY in that city.

Can we have JOY when we have struggles and trials in this life? Yes, we can if we fix our eyes on Jesus and trust in God and His great love for us

and not on the uncertain times we are experiencing.

We can have much JOY in our life when we realize that our identity does not lie in how good that we are but how good Jesus is.

In summary, JOY is more than being happy because happiness is temporary. JOY is a lasting inward experience and is eternal in the Lord.

--Bailey Howell