

Fruit of the Spirit - Joy

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Happy Trails To You

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2 Steve Gumaer - Partners R/D.
- B. Slide3 Iliobert - from Hinche Haiti.

II. Slide4 **Intro:**

- A. What **comes to mind** when you hear the word **Joy**?
- B. What **color** do you think of when you hear Joy?
- C. I guess its important if **joy** is found **155** x's & rejoice **177** times (332+).
- D. **OT - Joy** (esp in Psalms) - **the natural consequence of the individuals fellowship w/God who is the source of joy.** Ps.16:11 *In your presence is fullness of joy.*
 - 1. The **inward** emotion of joy finds expression in **outward shouting, singing, leaping, and dancing.**
 - 2. The most complete occasion or motivation for this **religious joy** was the experience of **salvation.**
 - 3. Joy is not just a **human** quality, **God** is pictured as **rejoicing** (Ps.104:31).
 - 4. Closely related to **gladness** and **happiness**, although **joy is more a state of being than an emotion and as a result of choice.** Lexham Bible Dict
- E. **NT - Joy** - even **richer** in its description of **joy** in the NT.
 - 1. Joy is described as a **characteristic** of the Christian.
 - 2. It is a **fruit** produced by the inner workings of the Holy Spirit.
 - 3. **It is dynamic** rather than static.
- F. Slide5 Bearing the fruit of Joy is a **life long process.**
- G. Surely there are many circumstances in which Christians **cannot** be happy. **But** they can always **rejoice** in the Lord and **delight** in Him.
 - 1. **Paul** himself was an excellent example of one who had **inner joy** when external circumstances (*such as persecution, imprisonment, the threat of death*) were against him.

2. When Paul wrote this letter to the **Philippians**, he was a prisoner of Rome's mad Emperor Nero. This letter are the thoughts of a man *behind bars*, speaking repeatedly of joy and rejoicing.
3. This Roman prison was a *joyless* place of damp stone where neglect, darkness, and stench were terrible.
4. **Even so**, Paul's letter proclaims that *in Christ* every Christian has **victory** over the **circumstances** of life.
5. And in *the joy of the Lord*, Paul found the secret of such **victory**, the way of **escape**, from his prison.
 - a) This is a quality of life that is worth knowing, because **we all have a prison of one kind or another**. **Think, what would you define as your prison today?**
 - (1) *Your singleness? Your marriage? Your addiction? Your compulsion? Your anger? Your hurt? Your job? Your unemployment? School that wont end? Life that wont begin? [the joy of the Lord, the secret of victory]*
6. **Joy** is the predominant theme of this Epistle of *Philippians*.

III. Slide6 **HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU**

- A. Slide7 Happy Memories (1:3,4)
- B. I thank my God upon **every remembrance of you**, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with **joy**.
- C. **You - Who, is the you?** In Acts 16:12-40 tells of Paul's time in Philippi. *And he introduces us to those whom Jesus changed their lives...*
 1. **The women** he sat down & talked w/at their prayer mtg down at the riverside.
 2. **To Lydia** the seller of purple, who got **saved** & her household, then they got **baptized**, then showed us **hospitality** to stay at her house.
 3. **To a certain slave-girl** possessed w/a spirit of divination. (greatly annoyed Paul) finally he **commanded in the name of Jesus to come out of her**. And it did that very hour. Beaten by masters & townsfolk...then imprisoned.
 4. **To the jailer** who was listening to he & Silas at midnight **praying/singing/hymns** to God. **Great earthquake, foundations shaken, doors opened**. Jailer about to take his own life. Stopped him. Gets saved/baptized, washed wounds, fed em.

- D. Paul had *Happy Memories* of those lives that had been changed because of Jesus.
- E. *Slide8 Happy Prayers* (1:3,4)
- F. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every **prayer** of mine making request for **you all** with **joy**.
- G. Paul was not pleading to be released from prison. Paul was not whining to God...*why me? or woah is me!* Paul was not praying self centered prayers...**but instead for you**/them.
- H. Paul had *Happy Prayers* for new friends.
- I. *Slide9 Happy Preaching* (1:18)
- J. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, **Christ is preached**; and in this I **rejoice**, yes, and will **rejoice**.
- K. Presently & in the future rejoicing in Christ name being lifted up, even if their preaching doesn't sound exactly like your style.
1. **Just Christ being esteemed**. His gospel being preached. His good news being declared & shown!
 2. Rejoicing in the fact that *we are more **sinful and flawed** in ourselves than we ever dared **believe**; yet at the very same time we are more **loved and accepted** in Jesus Christ than we ever dared **hope***. Tim Keller
- L. Paul saw *Happy Preaching* for anyone actually doing it, even if it was a little different.
- M. *Slide10 Happy Unity* (2:2)
- N. Fulfill my **joy** by being **like-minded**, having the same love, being of **1 accord**, of **1 mind**
- O. I'm excited next week for 2 days I'm getting together with a dozen pastors from churches here in our valley to *pray and play, to worship & eat*. It's the brethren dwelling together in unity...despite our differences.
1. Ps.133 *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!* Precious oil down Aaron's head/beard/edge of garments.
Dew of Mnt Hermon onto Mnt Zion bringing *blessing & life forever more*.
a) *Life* = *Chaim* (Heb. toast *L'chaim* to life).

- P. Paul had a *Happy Unity* with other believers.
- Q. *Slide11 Happy Expectation/Anticipation* (2:16)
- R. Holding fast the word of life, so that I may **rejoice in the day of Christ** that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.
1. **Rejoicing in Jesus' 2nd coming.** **Not** to get out of your situation. **But because** you **love** Him. You **miss** Him. **Want to be with** Him.
- S. Paul had a *Happy Anticipation* for Jesus return.
- T. *Slide12 Happy Suffering* (2:17)
- U. Yes, and if I am being poured out as a **drink offering** on the **sacrifice** and service of your faith, I am glad and **rejoice** with you all.
- V. **Joy** is not affected by *circumstances* however **adverse and painful**; **in fact**, **joy** may be the outcome of *suffering* for Christ sake.
1. **Paul** told the church at Colossae, *I now rejoice in my sufferings for you.* 1:24
 2. **Jesus** described His suffering as **joy** in the task and goal set before him.
 - a) Heb.12:2 *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame.*
- W. Paul enjoyed a *Happy Suffering* on behalf of friends.
- X. *Slide13 Happy Source* (3:1,3)
- Y. Finally, my brethren, **rejoice in the Lord**. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe...³ For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, **rejoice in Christ Jesus**, and have no confidence in the flesh.
- Z. If God is the **source** of Joy, **then** the more I'm w/God, the more joy I will have in my life.
1. Is.61:10 I will greatly **rejoice in the Lord**, My soul shall be **joyful in my God**; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
 2. Jn.15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that My **joy** may remain in you, and that your **joy** may be full.

AA. Paul knew his *Happy Source* was in God.

BB. Slide 14 Happy Command (4:4)

CC. **Rejoice** in the Lord always. Again I will say, **rejoice!** [note: not *rejoice always*...that would be ludicrous, cruel & totally unrealistic] **but in the Lord.**

DD. Note this is a *command...to rejoice*...& he says it **twice**. He doesn't double any other command...He doesn't say, "*Don't murder, and again I say, don't murder.*"

1. If this is so important, **why don't we rebuke each other for *not rejoicing*?**
 - a) "*Hey sour face, if you have joy...tell your face!*"
 - b) *Well you don't know my life, you don't know what's happened to me, you don't know...*
 - c) How can you rejoice in the Lord when your circumstances and situations are not conducive to joy and rejoicing?...

EE. Sometimes the trials and pressures of life make it almost impossible to be happy. But Paul encouraged them to rejoice **in the Lord**. In fact, he said it **twice** remember.

1. **Christ** is the One in whom *the sphere of rejoicing* was to take place.
2. Surely there are many circumstances in which Christians **cannot** be happy.
3. But they can always **rejoice in the Lord** and **delight in Him**.
 - a) Paul himself was an excellent example of one who had **inner joy** when **external circumstances** (such as persecution, imprisonment, the threat of death) were against him.
4. **This in the Lord phrase is important**. It speaks of a relationship with the Father, **by the Spirit**, which speaks to *our identification, our security, and our position* in Him.
 - a) When **He** is the one at the core, **joy** can result because of the certainty of His ultimate triumph.

FF. Paul accepted this *Happy Command* to rejoice **in the Lord**.