

Sunday, February 11, 2024—Galatians 5:22 The Fruit Of The Spirit, Part 3 (Joy)

Galatians 2:22

- **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**
- Are you happy? Are you joyful?
- **Joy**—is the second fruit of the Spirit identified in this passage. Joy in this verse is a translation of the Greek noun *chara*. This noun occurs 59 times in Greek text supporting the KJB. It is variously rendered in English as follows:
 - joy (51x), gladness (3x), joyful (1x), joyous (1x), joyfulness (1x), joyfully (with G3326) (1x), greatly (1x).
 - Matthew 2:10
 - Matthew 28:8
 - Mark 4:16
 - Luke 1:14
 - Luke 2:10
- Deuteronomy 28:47—first occurrence of a form of the “joy.”
- I Samuel 18:6—is the first occurrence of the word “joy.”
- According to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* the noun “joy” carries the following meanings:
 - “1. The passion or emotion excited by the acquisition or expectation of good; that excitement of pleasurable feelings which is caused by success, good fortune, the gratification of desire or some good possessed, or by a rational prospect of possessing what we love or desire; gladness; exultation; exhilaration of spirits.

JOY is a delight of the mind, from the consideration of the present or assured approaching possession of a good.

Bring heavenly balm to heal my country's wounds,

JOY to my soul and transport to my lay.

2. Gayety; mirth; festivity.

The roofs with joy resound.

3. Happiness; felicity.

Her heavenly form beheld, all wished her joy

4. A glorious and triumphant state.

--Who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross. Hebrews 12:2.

5. The cause of joy or happiness.

For ye are our glory and joy 1 Thessalonians 2:19.

6. A term of fondness; the cause of you.”

- The word “happy” occurs 28 times in 25 verses in the KJB. Of these occurrences 6 of them are in the New Testament. The word rendered “happy” (*makarios*) is never rendered as “joy.” Noah Webster defines the English adjective “happy” as follows:

- “1. Lucky; fortunate; successful.

Chimists have been more happy in finding experiments, than the causes of them.

So we say, a happy thought; a happy expedient.

2. Being in the enjoyment of agreeable sensations from the possession of good; enjoying pleasure from the gratification of appetites or desires. The pleasurable sensations derived from the gratification of sensual appetites render a person temporarily happy; but he only can be esteemed really and permanently happy who enjoys peace of mind in the favor of God. To be in any degree happy we must be free from pain both of body and of mind; to be very happy we must be in the enjoyment of lively sensations of pleasure, either of body or mind.

Happy am I, for the daughters will call me blessed. Genesis 30:13.

He found himself happiest, in communicating happiness to others.

3. Prosperous; having secure possession of good.

Happy is that people whose God is Jehovah. Psalms 144:15.

4. That supplies pleasure; that furnishes enjoyment; agreeable; applied to things; as a happy condition.

5. Dexterous; ready; able.

One gentleman is happy at a reply, another excels in a rejoinder.

6. Blessed; enjoying the presence and favor of God, in a future life.

7. Harmonious; living in concord; enjoying the pleasures of friendship; as a happy family.

8. Propitious; favorable.

- I Thessalonians 1:6—I submit to you that “happiness” is normal human emotion that is contingent upon one’s circumstances in contrast to “joy” which is produced within us of the Holy Spirit.
 - Acts 17:1-14—affliction does not typically result in feelings of happiness. Yet, the Thessalonians received the word in much affliction, “with joy of the Holy Ghost.”
- II Corinthians 8:1-2—once again “joy” despite “great trial of affliction” is indicative of more than “happiness.”
- A form of the word “joy” occurs 28 times in 25 verses in Paul’s epistles. A careful consideration of each occurrence reveals that “joy” is never tied to one’s external circumstances but to spiritual condition and often connection with the activity of God the Holy Spirit.
 - Romans 5:11
 - Romans 14:7—“. . . joy in the Holy Ghost.”
 - Romans 15:13, 32—“. . . through the power of the Holy Ghost.”
 - II Corinthians 1:24
 - II Corinthians 7:4,13
 - Philippians 1:1, 25; 2:2, 17-18; 4:1
 - Colossians 1:11; 2:5
- Galatians 5:22—as a fruit of the Spirit “joy” is produced when believers can apply “love” in the sense that we value and esteem things the way God does. “Joy” is more than happiness; it is the ability to patiently endure under less-than-ideal circumstances by indwelling power of God the Holy Spirit. Joy is deeper than happiness, Joy is the ability to rejoice in the things that God rejoices at.
 - I Corinthians 12:26
 - I Corinthians 13:6
 - Psalm 30:5
 - Nehemiah 8:10
- Acts 26:2