Wednesday Night Adult Class

**The Fruit of the Spirit**

**Lesson 5**

**The Fruit of the Spirit is Joy**

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I am genuine indebted to F.E. Marsh for the following outlines on **JOY:**

1. **Joy of Salvation**, as we trust in Him. "Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation" (Psalm 51:12).
2. **Joy of Union**, as we abide in Him. "That My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15:11).
3. **Joy of Communion**, as we talk to, and listen to Him. "Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way" (Luke 24:32).
4. **Joy of Service**, as we work for Him. "So that I might finish my course with joy" Acts 20:24).
5. **Joy of His Presence**, as we look to Him. "Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord" (John 20:20).
6. **Joy of His Word**, as we feed upon and obey Him. "Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart" (Jeremiah 15:16).
7. **Joy of Victory**, as we fight in Him, "Rejoice with great joy" (Nehemiah 12:43).
8. **Joy of Suffering**, in fellowship with Him. "Rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer" (Acts 5:41).
9. **Joy of Glory**, 'Ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (I Peter 1:8).

**JOY OF THE LORD** (Nehemiah 8:10)

The joy of the Lord, not our joy in Him, is our strength.

1. **The joy of the Lord's compassion** is our strength in testimony, as we remember we are saved by Him (Luke 15:1-7).
2. **The joy of the Lord's treasure** (which is His people) is our strength in Christian life, as we recognize we are His property (Matthew 13:44).
3. **The joy of the Lord's Cross** is our strength in persecution, as we consider Him in prayerful meditation through His Word (Hebrews 12:2, 3).
4. **The joy of the Lord's oneness** **with us** is our strength in fruit-bearing, as we abide in Him (John 15:11).
5. **The joy of His presence** is our strength in our walk, as we look to Him in faith (Psalm 105:43).
6. **The joy of His joy** is our strength in communion as we have fellowship with Him (Zephaniah 3:16, 17).
7. **The joy of His presentation and commendation** shall be our strength in glory to praise Him for all His grace given (Jude 24). [[1]](#footnote-1)

The word joy appears in the New Testament some 62 times. Its meaning includes the following words: **elation, ecstasy, happiness, exultation, and delight.** It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22), which means its origin is from heaven. It is a grace which we must possess as Christians. Its presence must not be lost when going through hard times (James 1:2-4). It is state of mind nurtured by the blessings which are presently ours and those which will be ours at the coming of Christ. There is a considerable heightening of joy when the faithful consider the latter, the coming of Christ (II Timothy 4:8).

The joy which springs from carnal affections is short-term and weak. There is neither stability nor longevity with it. It is a tease for those who carry out their carnal lusts but soon afterwards comes the more substantial reality of spiritual death bringing its fruit of guilt and doom (Proverbs 1: 26-32; Romans 8:6; James 1:14, 15).

Unlike carnal joy, spiritual joy has its roots in God. The world can neither know it nor acquire it until it comes to Christ. Spiritual joy is not shallow for it touches the innermost parts of the human spirit (John 15:11. It permeates the entire being of God's people. Even in troubled times, joy loses nothing of its luster because He Who promised is faithful (Isaiah 26:3). Obedience opens the door to joy; faithfulness keeps those doors open. Understanding sets joy before you as it actually is; wisdom relentlessly pursues it until it has had its fill. The fruit of the Spirit is JOY.

1. F.E. Marsh, Five Hundred Bible Study Outlines (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1980) 161-162. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)