

## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

### “Joy”

#### Introduction-

*Our culture and religious architecture through the ages have left us with the impression that God is a somber God. But this cannot be because somber means dark and dull and our God is light! The joyful nature of our heavenly Father is seen in His commands regarding the feasts and offerings.*

Deut 16:14-15

- 14 **Be joyful at your Feast**--you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites, the aliens, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns.
- 15 For seven days celebrate the Feast to the LORD your God at the place the LORD will choose. For the LORD your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, **and your joy will be complete.** NIV

Deut 14:23-26

- 23 Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always.
- 24 But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put his Name is so far away),
- 25 then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose.
- 26 Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. **Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your God and rejoice.** NIV

*This might give us a whole other understanding or angle on “cheerful giving”!*

*God not only commands us to celebrate Him with feasting and joy, He Himself rejoices over us.*

Zeph 3:17

The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." NIV

*The movies have mistreated our Lord's image also. They typically show Him as a somber and sad man, always serious and never smiling. This is not our Lord!*

Luke 10:21

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. NKJV

*The word “rejoiced” literally means that He jumped up and down for joy!*

Ps 45:7

You love righteousness and hate wickedness; **Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.** NKJV

Isa 61:1-3

**1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me**, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
**2** to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,  
**3** and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, **the oil of gladness instead of mourning**, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. NIV

*It is this Jesus, who is anointed with more gladness than anyone else, who pours out the oil of gladness, the Holy Spirit, upon us. After all, feasting can be fun, but:*

Rom 14:17

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, NIV

### **The Spirit of Joy-**

*Let's look at Luke 10:21 one more time.*

Luke 10:21a "In that hour Jesus **rejoiced**<sup>1</sup> in the Spirit" NKJV

*Strong's definition-*

NT:21 – **agalliao**<sup>1</sup> (ag-al-lee-ah'-o); from agan (much) and **NT:242**; properly, to jump for joy, i.e. exult: KJV - be (exceeding) glad, with exceeding joy, rejoice (greatly).

**NT:242** – **hallomai**<sup>2</sup> (hal'-lom-ahee); middle voice of apparently a primary verb; to jump; figuratively, to gush: KJV - leap, spring up.

John 4:14

But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water **springing up**<sup>2</sup> into everlasting life. KJV

*Like the artesian well that Jesus describes in John 4 and John 7, the Holy Spirit bubbles up within us in joyfulness. He is a joyful spirit that rejoices in and with His creation. He empowers us and fills us with joy.*

Rom 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope **by the power of the Holy Spirit.** NIV

1 Thess 1:6

You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message **with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.** NIV

*Because we are filled with the Holy Spirit of God, our lives should be full of joy. We should revel in the joy of having, the joy of being, and the joy of doing.*

**Joy of Having-Salvation:**

Luke 10:17-20

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, **but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**" NIV

Ps 51:6-12

6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 **Restore to me the joy of your salvation** and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. NIV

*Not only does our salvation bring joy to us, it brings joy to heaven.*

Luke 15:7, 10

7 I tell you that in the same way **there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents** than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

10 In the same way, I tell you, **there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God** over one sinner who repents." NIV

*Because we are saved, we can have joy in hope.*

**Hope:**

Heb 12:2

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, **who for the joy set before him** endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. NIV

Ps 16:9-11

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,

10 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. NIV

Ps 43:3-5

3 Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.

4 Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

5 Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. NIV

Rom 12:12 “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” NIV

*Because we have hope, we can rejoice in persecution. As a matter of fact, suffering persecution is a major key to growing the fruit of love.*

Matt 5:11-12

11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. NIV

1 Peter 4:12-14

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.

13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. NIV

### **The Joy of Being-Fellowship:**

*The greatest principle in having joy in our lives is fellowship with God and with one another. We fellowship with Him in praise and prayer and examining His word.*

Ps 16:11

You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. NIV

Ps 21:6 NIV

Surely you have granted him eternal blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence.

1 Chron 16:10-11

10 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

11 Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. NIV

1 John 1:1-4

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

4 **We write this to make our joy complete.** NIV

*One of the most joyful events in any human culture is marriage. God uses this imagery to show us the joy we should have in Him and the joy He has in us.*

John 3:29

The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, **and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice.** That joy is mine, and it is now complete. NIV

*If the best man is full of joy at the voice of the bridegroom, what of the bride?*

Rev 19:7

**Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!** For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. NIV

Isa 62:5

As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you. NIV

Isa 61:10

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. NIV

***Fellowship with One Another:***

Acts 2:46

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, NIV

Phil 2:2

then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. NIV

*What is the foundation that allows us to fellowship with God and with one another with likemindedness? The Word of God.*

Neh 8:1

Nehemiah 8:1, 5, 8-12

1 all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded for Israel.

5 Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up.

8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.

9 Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is sacred to the LORD your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, **for the joy of the LORD is your strength.**"

11 The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a sacred day. Do not grieve."

12 Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with **great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.** NIV

John 15:11

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. NIV

John 17:13

"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. NIV

Jer 15:16

**Your words were found,** and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts. NKJV

*Prayer is also a key vehicle to fellowship with God. Prayer is fellowship with God!*

John 16:24

Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. NIV

### **Joy in Doing-**

*We must serve the Lord with joy.*

Deut 28:45-48 NIV

45 All these curses will come upon you. They will pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the LORD your God and observe the commands and decrees he gave you.

46 They will be a sign and a wonder to you and your descendants forever.

47 Because you did not serve the LORD your God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity,

48 therefore in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty, you will serve the enemies the LORD sends against you. He will put an iron yoke on your neck until he has destroyed you.

*We should be about the business of spreading the glad tidings of good news to help find that which is lost and fill the joy of heaven.*

John 4:36

Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. NIV

*To experience the fullness of joy, we must remain and be found faithful.*

Matt 25:20-30

20 The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

26 "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?

27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

28 "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents.

29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' NIV

1 Peter 1:8-9

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. NIV

### **Conclusion-**

*1 Thessalonians 5:16 commands us to "rejoice evermore." Being joyful is a command, not an emotion. As we are obedient to the command, the emotions will follow. We can obey the command of being joyful by rejoicing in God that we have hope and salvation, by residing in His*

*presence with praise, prayer, fellowship and His word, and by obeying His commands in being faithful and finding the lost. Amen!*