

Fruit of the Spirit: Joy

by Jon Hill

Galatians 5:18-23

Joy can be confused with happiness or pride.

James 1:2-4 (ESV)

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Pride and Joy?

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Proverbs 11:2 (ESV)

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

Psalm 59:12-13

For the sin of their mouths, the words of their lips,
let them be trapped in their pride.
For the cursing and lies that they utter,
consume them in wrath;
consume them till they are no more,
that they may know that God rules over Jacob
to the ends of the earth.

Mindset Shift for Joy:

- 1) God desires a life of Joy for us.
- 2) Every blessing we have is still God's.
- 3) Pride replaces Joy when we forget this.

John 15:11 (ESV)

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Sources of pride that we must offer back to God before we can experience joy:

- Our finances and wealth:
Mark 10:21-22 (ESV)
21 And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, him, "You lack one thing: sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." 22 Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.
- Our work:
Matthew 25:21 (ESV)
His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'
- Our identity:
Galatians 3:27-28 (ESV)
For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- Our time:
Matthew 6:31,33 (ESV)
31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
- Our children:
Psalm 127:3-5 (ESV)
Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD
the fruit of the womb a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.
Blessed is the man
who fills his quiver with them!
He shall not be put to shame
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.
- Our salvation:
Psalm 51:12 (ESV)
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Only a life of gratitude that recognizes that God is the source of all good gifts can bring joy.