



Organic Fruit – Can You Bear It?

Series Scripture:

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

Happiness versus Joy

Happiness is based on your circumstances and your emotions; it is a temporary and fleeting feeling.

Joy is...

a state of being rather than an emotion, a result of a choice.

Joy is not based on your circumstances; it is a sense of peace and contentment despite your circumstances and with an understanding that God is in control.

The evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives is the ability to produce joy, which is **a gift from God!**

Here are four ways to produce JOY in Your Life!

1. Joy Starts with a **Heavenly Mindset!**

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:2

“Our thinking profoundly influences every aspect of our lives. All lasting change is preceded by changed thinking...A revival of our minds. How well your mind works dictates how much joy you experience. No area of your life is untouched by your thoughts.”

– Tommy Newberry

If we change our thinking, we can change our mindset.

2. Joy is Produced when our **Faith is Tested**

James 1:2-4 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete and needing nothing.

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart because I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

The more we rehearse God's Word, the more we stay connected to His Holy Spirit through prayer and worship the more it strengthens our faith!

3. *Joy Produces **Strength***

Nehemiah 8:10 This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!

Joy is the platform for strength! When the enemy can steal your joy, your strength goes too.

Overview of the book of Nehemiah

Nehemiah spoke these words in the midst of great opposition and he encouraged himself and God's people after reading God's word!

Nehemiah, in a time of great grief, reminded God of His promises to His people, verse 8 "Please remember what you told your servant Moses: 'If you are unfaithful to me, I will scatter you among the nations. But if you return to me and obey my commands and live by them, then even if you are exiled to the ends of the earth, I will bring you back to the place I have chosen for my name to be honored.'"

4. *Joy is a product of our connection to **Christ***

Being joyful is only accomplished when we connect to God and stay connected.

"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

Jesus continues, "But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father."

“I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, **your joy will overflow!** John 15:7-11

The more connected to God we are the more joy we will produce!

Connect to Jesus the Source of JOY!

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and make me willing to obey you. Psalms 51:12

Joy comes from a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

Giving Cheerfully Produces Joy

Each one should give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or from compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

My Next Steps this week:

- Pray and ask God to help you “Bear” the Fruit of the Spirit in your life.**
- Ask God what you can cheerfully give towards the REACH Campaign!**