

Joy

PP 1 Backdrop for the series: with Galatians 5:22,23

Review This is a continuation of an 11 week series on the fruit of the spirit.

Week 2 Pastor Tim taught on the first of the fruits, love. That was an exciting message.

Note this is the fruit of the spirit, it is not our fruit, it is the product of what comes out of our life when we walk in the spirit. We can't make up this fruit, it is genuine. The moment you meet someone who is genuine, you feel at ease. Something about them radiates the love of God toward you.

Week 1 Pastor talked about what it is like to walk in the spirit. The center text was

PP2 Galatians 5:16

What does it mean to walk in the spirit? It is learning to walk moment by moment sensitive to the spirit's work in my life. He uses scripture, teaching from believers to direct my path every day. Some would call it practicing the presence of God. He lives in us. From the moment we trusted Christ, the spirit of God took up residence in our heart. He has given us a new heart with new desires. **Christ in Me the Hope of Glory.**

The spirit of God is teaching us who we are in Christ and all that is ours because of our new life in Christ.

PP3 Romans 6:3-7 This is a foundational teaching. Victory over sin has already happened. We are free from the power of sin. It is the Holy Spirit who reveals our sin to us so that we can reckon it dead and have victory over it. He never reveals sin for the purpose of condemnation.

PP4 Romans 6:11 victory in the Christian life is by faith. This is a faith appropriation of truth. This does not need to control my life. Jesus Christ is our victory. He has freed us from the law of sin and death.

PP5 Galatians 5:16

There is a struggle between our flesh, our desire to have life center around me and my desires or my understanding that Christ has saved me for a far greater purpose than myself. Learning to live for others is such a better way to live. The church exploded under the power of the spirit. The New Testament was not even written at the time. These verses are showing us where our victory is, it is not in knowledge, it is in relationship with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who lives in our heart and wants to direct our life for our benefit. He loves us.

As we learn to walk with the Lord daily, at work, home, school and learn to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, the fruit of the spirit begins to flow out of our life.

The first fruit is love. Pastor Tim did such a great job last week sharing what love is. (If you have missed either message, I encourage to go back and listen to it on line.)

As he mentioned, love is the foundation of the other fruits. Everything flows out of love. As we begin to look at Joy, I want you to see something about life flowing from love.

PP6 Ephesians 3:16, 17

Note we are rooted in his love for us, not our love for him. We love him because he first loved us.

PP7 Ephesians 3:18,19

Notice that understanding the deep love of God for his creation is what brings us to the fullness of God. Love surpasses knowledge. It is a deep relational experience with the truth of just how much God loves us.

Christians we spend so much time and energy trying to earn something that God has and is extravagantly giving us freely in Christ every day. We live so much of the Christian life in the flesh trying to earn God's love by measuring up to some standard that does not exist instead of simply enjoying who I am in Christ.

The fruit of the spirit comes from our life as we walk in the spirit. Walking in the spirit means walking in these truths.

What is Joy? Joy is what floods my soul as I comprehend what the spirit is trying to teach me. I can't fake Joy. It flows from a heart filled with the truth of God's love for me. I don't deserve it or earn it.

PP8 Titus 1:2

The word hope carries the meaning of a joyful anticipation. As God reveals truth to us, it causes us to rejoice in the inner man.

How does Joy become a fruit of the spirit?

Remember the one facet of the Holy Spirit is that he reveals truth. He brings to memory the things that we learn. Remember that love surpasses knowledge. This book is a book of truth, its purpose is not for us to learn how to control God. It is God's love letter to us. The spirit illumines truth to our heart. As our heart captures that truth, it produces joy. (the day I received Christ, my words were, that is why you died, you died for me.) I walked out of that meeting never to doubt my salvation in Christ.

The Holy Spirit is causing me to see the glory and beauty of Jesus Christ. He opens my eyes to see God at work.

If we do not believe that the spirit reveals truth, we will never read scripture with the confidence that God will reveal truth to us. Walking in the spirit is an act of faith.

What does Joy look like?

Joy is not pleasure, in fact the Bible contrasts pleasure as something that is fleeting and a product of the desires of the flesh. It is not something that we produce. It is not a bubbling enthusiasm. I sense joy in my life when I feel a part of God's work. Life is not about me, it is about God and what he is doing, yet

he gives me the joy of seeing him work. I have the joy of participating in his work. Parents, opportunities with your children, Everyday we have opportunity to touch people with the Love of God. This joy produces a maturity in us.

PP9 James 1:2-4 It is facing trials knowing that God is doing a work in me. He who began a work in me will continue it to the day of Jesus Christ. This ability to count it all joy comes from the spirit. As we grow through trials, we grow in our ability to love others. It should also teach us not to rescue people from their problems. Some people will never learn and grow if we keep rescuing them from their mistakes.

PP10 Romans 5:3-5

This is the same joyful anticipation as Titus 1:2

Joy looks at life and says, what am I going to learn from the Lord today. It springs from a confidence that God loves me and is maturing me and changing me into the image of His son.

Joy to me is being amazed at what God is doing. He gets the glory.

The Joy of the Lord is my strength.

This is found in a relationship, not a list of do's and don'ts.

Depending on time I might stop at this point. If time allows, then I will finish up with the remainder of this message.

How do I know if I am walking in the spirit?

Galatians 5:19-23 What is coming out of my life?

PP11 John 15:9-13,

1. Pp2 The counselor's toolbox: What is coming out of my life. Illustration of two trees. What produces life for a tree? The roots. I can be a believer and remain dependent on me. It produces arrogance, pride, a critical suspicious spirit. If I root myself in the Lord, he produces fruit that amazes me. If we are not willing to let the Lord search our hearts, we miss such a simple way of listening to the spirit. What is coming out of my life is an indication of where I am rooted. I can not produce the fruit of the spirit unless I am walking with the spirit of God who lives in me and gives me new desires of the heart. Not my desires, but God's.
2. Fruit of the spirit.

3. If we are to understand the fruit of the spirit , then we need to understand what it is. Last week, Pastor Tim did love. What an excellent message. It is as he shared the foundation of all the other fruit.
4. Notice the root In Ephesians 3:
5. From this root flows the other fruits, We begin with Joy.
6. What is Joy? Titus 1:2 we