

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Occasion of Joy

Galatians 5:22-23, “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith/fulness, gentleness, self-control.

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This is not a list, or a cafeteria menu

- These are interdependent attributes of who God is
 - And who He wants to be in us & through us
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My wife & I agreed we would have put peace before joy

- We also agreed He didn’t recruit us as editors
 - He offers them in His own order of priority
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Love is the foundational & primary fruit of God’s Holy Spirit

- The other fruit **only exist** in God’s Love, **as** God’s love
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Love application questions:

- **Who** do you love?
 - **Who** don’t you love?
 - **Who** will you love?
 - **How** will you love them?
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*What will you love them **with**?*

- The first fruit growing from love is a good place to start
 - “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy...
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*As an expression of God’s love, **what is joy**?*

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The American Heritage Dictionary of 2001 calls it,

- Intense or elated happiness
 - A source of great pleasure
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I asked my Internet friends to define or describe joy.

Some said:

- 50 years of marriage
 - Sunshine in your heart
 - Knowing & trusting Christ
 - Excited contentment
 - Peaceful contentment
 - Too complex to define
 - Release of all burdens
 - Needs met & more to bless with
 - Fishing
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*We often associate joy with **exuberant, thankful happiness!***

- Yet the word most often used in the NT means
 - “Calm delight”
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The joy seen in the NT is often defined by its context

- However it is expressed, **genuine joy is infectious!**
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***Four occasions of joy** revealed in God’s Word*

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*Joy is often in response to **something we experience***

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***Psalms 16:11** says, “In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”*

- Being with God is the greatest joy ever known

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Luke 1:44, "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy."

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Luke 2:10, Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."

- *It's hard to imagine their overwhelming joy!*

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Answered prayer is the occasion of great joy!

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Luke 1:13-14, But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And **you will have joy and gladness**, and many will rejoice at his birth."

- *It may not happen right away*

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John 16:24 Jesus said, "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

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Romans 14:17, "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

- *The Spirit's joy in God's kingdom is not about earthly pleasures*
- *Same bumper sticker on two cars*

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*Joy is also often **for other people***

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Luke 15:22-24, "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry."

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Philippians 4:1, "Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved."

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I Thessalonians 2:19-20, "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For **you are our glory and joy.**"

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III John 3-4, "For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have **no greater joy** than to hear that my children walk in the truth."

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Sharing Christ's Joy

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John 15:11, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

- *He offers us the full experience of His joy!*

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John 17:13, "But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have **My joy** fulfilled in themselves."

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Hebrews 12:2, "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who **for the joy that was set before Him** endured the cross, **despising the shame**, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

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Matthew 5:10-12, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **Rejoice and be exceedingly glad**, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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Acts 5:40-41, “And when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that go. So they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy** to suffer shame for His name.”

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James 1:2-3, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience (endurance, steadfastness).”

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they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them

1 Peter 4:12-13, “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that **when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.**”

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A young pastor in China

- *He glowed with the “calm delight” of Christ’s joy*
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Galatians 5:22-23, “The fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith/fulness, gentleness, self-control.

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*Don’t let **anything**, or **anyone** rob you of Christ’s joy!*