

# *THE FRUIT OF THE*

# *SPIRIT: JOY*

Phil. 4:4-8



Black Creek Church of Christ  
Summer Bible School  
July 24, 2013

- Introduction.
  - The Bible is a book of joy. (Lk. 1:28; Matt. 28:9)
  - Proliferation of “joy” words. (joy, rejoice, rejoiced, joyful, joyous) occur 430 times in the Bible.
  - “Joy” is a defining aspect of a Christian’s character.
  - Joy defined/described: “Calm delight”. Not dependent on external or material circumstances (things, gifts, favor, praise); but inner attribute founded on having the right relationship with God (Ps. 16:11). Not a trait quenched by the trials of life, but rather found in their midst.
  - We are instructed to rejoice. (Phil. 3:1; 4:4; Col. 1:9-11)
  
- Things That Bring Joy:
  - Joy in receiving the gospel. (I Thess. 1:6)
  - Joy in obeying the gospel. (Acts 8:39; Jn. 15:10-11)
  - Joy in fellowship with God and other Christians. (I Jn. 1; Ps. 16:11)
  - Joy in the salvation of others. (Lk. 15)
  - Joy in restoration. (II Cor. 7:7; Ps. 51:12)
  - Joy in the spread of the gospel. (Acts 11:23; 15:3)
  - Joy in service. (II Cor. 8:2)
  - Joy in seeing others walking in the light. (III Jn. 4)
  - Joy in hope. (Rom. 12:12)
  - Joy in trials and tribulations. (James 1:2-3; Heb. 12:11, 2-3; Acts 5:41)
  
- Things That Destroy Joy:
  - Shame...
    - "My confident hope is that I will in no way be ashamed, but that with complete boldness, even now as always, Christ will be exalted in my body, whether I live or die." (Phil. 1:20)
    - Shame will rob us of joy.
    - Paul was imprisoned as he wrote these words, but was not ashamed of Christ or of his gospel. (Phil. 1:12ff; Rom 1:16)
      - Am I ashamed of the gospel -- to speak of it to my friends, neighbors, ect.?
      - Am I ashamed of Christ -- to confess him before others?
      - Am I ashamed of God's word or prayer -- to be seen reading or praying by others?
    - Jesus is watching what we say and do, and knows whether or not we are ashamed to acknowledge him in our daily lives.
      - "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (Mark 8:38)
    - There will come a day in which Jesus will either confess us or deny us before his Father in heaven.
    - Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. (Matt. 10:32-33)
    - We can't have joy and shame at the same time.
    - Eliminate shame by exercising courage, conviction, confessing him before others.
  
  - Fear...
    - "...I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries..." (Phil. 1:27-28)
    - Fear of men will deprive us of joy in our lives. (Matt. 10:28)
    - The remedy for fear: trust in God.
    - (Romans 8:31) What shall we say then to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?
    - (Romans 8:37) Nay, in all these thing we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

- The eternal consequence of fear:
      - "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (Rev. 21:8)
  - Pride...
    - Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (Phil. 2:2-5)
    - The example of the humility of Jesus.
    - If our lives are filled with pride, we will never have joy in our hearts.
    - We will be constantly concerned about getting our "due" from others.
    - We can be so proud in our opinions that we do not change to conform to God's will.
    - Some examples:
      - Haman. (Esther 3:1-6; 6:12)
      - The Pharisee. (Lk. 18:10-13)
      - "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." (Matt. 5:5; cf. James 4:6)
      - Paul's rejoicing that the gospel is being preached. (Phil. 1:18)
  - Worry...
    - "Rejoice in the Lord, always: and again I say, Rejoice...Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report...think on these things. (Phil.4:4,6-8)
    - Joy is incompatible with worry.
    - To have joy in our lives and overcome worry, we must...
      - be prayerful
      - train our minds to think on good things (Phil. 4:8)
    - (Matt. 6:27) Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit to his stature?
    - Worry adds nothing to our life span...
    - Worry is futile:
      - Most we worry about never comes to pass
      - Other concerns we need to deal with
    - Place faith and confidence in the Lord. (Matt. 6:30, 33)
- Three Keys To Joy from Philippians:
  - Seeing the good in the bad. (Phil. 1:12-17)
  - Seeing the bad in the "good". (Phil. 3:5)
  - Seeing the better over the good. (Phil. 1:21-24)