

BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE ...

WHEN DO WE HAVE JOY?

1. We have the joy that God provides when we live in the presence of God.

- (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.
- (Romans 14:17 ESV) For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking **but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

2. We have the joy that God provides when we trust God to produce and refine joy through the sorrows and fiery trials of life.

- (Matthew 5:11-12 ESV) Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **Rejoice and be glad**, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- (John 16:22 ESV) So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and **your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.**
- (Romans 5:2-3 ESV) Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we **rejoice in hope of the glory of God.** Not only that, but **we rejoice in our sufferings**, knowing that suffering produces endurance.
- (Romans 12:12 ESV) **Rejoice in hope**, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.
- (1 Thessalonians 1:6 ESV) And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with **the joy of the Holy Spirit.**
- (1 Peter 1:6-7 ESV) In this you **rejoice**, though now for

a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

3. We have the joy that God provides when we determine to live in that joy.

- (Philippians 3:1 ESV) Finally, my brothers, **rejoice in the Lord.** To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.
- (Philippians 4:4 ESV) **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.**
- (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV) **Rejoice always**, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

4. When we live in the joy that God provides, we have overflowing joy that is filled with the glory of God and his kingdom.

- (1 Peter 1:8 ESV) Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him **and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.**
- (2 Corinthians 7:4 ESV) I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, **I am overflowing with joy.**

WHEN DO WE HAVE PEACE?

1. We have the peace of God when we accept the peace that God offers.

A. God offers peace through Jesus Christ.

- (Romans 5:1 ESV) **Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- (John 16:33 ESV) I have said these things to you, that **in me you may have peace.** In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.
- (John 14:27 ESV) **Peace I leave with you**; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid

B. God does not offer the peace of this world.

- (Matthew 10:34 ESV) **Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth.** I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.
- (Luke 12:51-53 ESV) **Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.**
- (Romans 3:10-11, 17 ESV) As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God" ... **and the way of peace they have not known."**

2. We must set our minds on the Spirit and the word of God for a life of peace.

- (Romans 8:6 ESV) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but **to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.**
- (Philippians 4:4-9 ESV) **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.** Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen

in me—practice these things, **and the God of peace will be with you.**

- (Colossians 3:14-15 ESV) And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And **let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts**, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.
- (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 ESV) **Now may the God of peace** himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.
- (2 Thessalonians 3:16 ESV) Now may **the Lord of peace** himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

3. We must be equipped with the peace God gives to be fruitful and to do the will of God.

- (Hebrews 12:11 ESV) For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields **the peaceful fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it.
- (Hebrews 13:20-21 ESV) Now may **the God of peace** who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, **equip you with everything good that you may do his will**, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.
- (James 3:18 ESV) And a harvest of righteousness is **sown in peace by those who make peace.**

4. We must be diligent to live in the peace of God to be found at peace at Christ's coming.

- (2 Peter 3:14 ESV) Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, **be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.**