

The Holy Spirit

Lesson 17 – The Holy Spirit & Joy

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Introduction

God's desire is that we who have been born again of water and the Spirit would live joyfully in the Holy Spirit! That is why it is only second to love in the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5.

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

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

Our joy begins because Christ lives in us through His Spirit. It is not something you are commanded to muster up on your own. It is fruit. It is the direct consequence of the love of God, and the grace of God working in our hearts!

It is A Command

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)

When God commands us to rejoice, what does he want? He wants us to remember that no matter what happens, nothing will separate us from his unending love for us in Christ (Romans 8:38–39), that he will work all these things for our good (Romans 8:28), and that he will rescue us from every evil deed and bring us safely into his heavenly kingdom (2 Timothy 4:18).

Holy Spirit Joy

Joy is not the product of pleasant circumstances; it is the product of allowing the Spirit to impart Joy, regardless of our circumstances.

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” (James 1:2-4)

When we learn that our trials have a spiritual significance to our faith, joy in trials is not only possible but inevitable. Joy is not the product of pleasant circumstances.

You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. (1 Thessalonians 1:6-7)

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Rejoicing in times of trial is not some meaningless religious ritual in which we focus on how we feel or in which we resolve to be brave. Instead, we are following the example set by Jesus in His own life, death, and resurrection. Remember that one of the works of the Holy Spirit is to conform us into the image of Christ (Romans 8:28).

One Last Thing

Do not overlook the last sentence of Galatians 5:24 that says “Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” One reason we don’t look to the Holy Spirit in our search for joy is the price we have to pay for it – crucifying the flesh with its passions and desires.

for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (Romans 8:13)

The Holy Spirit is the source of righteousness, peace, and joy.

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)