

WORD OF THE DAY



WORD OF THE DAY (Galatians 5:22-23)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." - NIV

MEDITATE ON THIS (JOY)



The second attribute of the Fruit of the Spirit is joy. As we continue our series titled the Fruit of the Spirit, we notice that the Greek word used for joy is chara. It is translated to mean a sense of inner gladness, delight, or rejoicing. It is also defined as a deep-seated pleasure, a depth of assurance and confidence that ignites a cheerful heart. Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, a famous Bible scholar and preacher, said, *"There is only one thing that can give true joy and that is contemplation of the Lord Jesus Christ. He satisfies my mind; He satisfies my emotions; He satisfies my every desire. He and His great salvation include the whole personality and nothing less, and in Him I am complete. Joy, in other words, is the response and the reaction of the soul to a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ."*

Joy should be distinguished from happiness. While happiness is seen more as a temporary feeling in response to external circumstances or stimulation, joy by contrast is seen as the overflowing on the outside due to state of being on the inside. Imagine that joy and happiness are represented by two different trees. If the height of each tree was directly correlated to the experience of pleasure, both trees would be the same height. The difference between the tree representing joy and the tree representing happiness would not be found in their heights but in their roots. The tree representing joy would have much deeper roots than the tree representing happiness, and consequently would have a firmer foundation.

Likewise, joy for the Christian is not merely about being happy but about having a firm foundation; one that is rooted in the Holy Spirit and not the flesh or the world. As Christians, our foundation for joy is rooted in our soul's union with the Holy Spirit; this allows us to tap into the true source of joy, which is God. You cannot have the joy of God, without having the Spirit(Holy Spirit) of God. Where does your joy come from beloved? Does it come from your bank account, your health, the number of *likes* you have on social media? Is your joy rooted in your job, your car, or having your political party in office? Is the source of your joy solely in your marriage, your lovely house, your intelligence, or your good looks? If it is, then what happens when these things fail you? Go deeper my friend and drink from the eternal wellspring of joy that flows from the Holy Spirit. This spring never runs dry and will never disappoint. It will provide a firm foundation that is independent of whatever may happen in the world. Drink of the joy flowing fast and freely from for the pure & unpolluted, eternal & everlasting, sweet & satisfying fountain whose foundation is found only in God's Holy Spirit.

- Your brother in Christ, Wala-Neh Labala

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Next week we examine the attribute of Peace within the Fruit of the Spirit.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, help me to have my soul rooted in your spirit so that my joy will be deep and firm, providing me with the power and strength to overcome the trials, temptations, and tribulations of this world. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.



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