

Kings Norton Baptist Church

Sunday 9th October 2022 10 am

The fruit of the spirit is Joy

Welcome

Opening Scripture	Psalm 16:11
Hymn	MP 632 thank you for the cross
Scripture	Isaiah 35
Prayer	
Children's talk	Jesus, Others, Yourself. Me = misery, Jesus = Joy
Chorus	MP 685 Therefore the redeemed of the Lord
Notices	Spotting modern slavery, Bible Study, Joyce,
Prayer time	& Lord's prayer
Hymn	MP 66 Broken for me, broken for you
Communion prep	read CH 413
Communion	
Reading	Galatians 5:16-26 (page 1172)
Hymn	MP 319 I would rather have Jesus
Sermon	The fruit of the Spirit is Joy
Hymn	MP 302 I want to walk with Jesus Christ
Close	Jude 1:24

The Passion of Jesus Christ – John Piper



Pray & Exordium

■ Imagine you are eating say a lasagna, a bolognese or your favourite Curry. As it is laid before you it all looks promising and you tuck in gleefully, yet mm there's something missing. You take a look and yes you can taste all the ingredients, they seem to be there, but yet there's definitely something missing, "there's something missing"!

So it is in many people's lives, there's something missing. You have a home, there's money, there's family, there's food, there's TV, there's the phone, the job, you have worked hard to have nice clothes, make-up etc, and yet in your heart – there's something missing.

Yes it is joy, joy is missing.

A joyless life for most is the norm, it's the norm.

Yes for True joy is unknown in the world in its present state, that went the moment Adam and Eve sinned. That day misery came in, and we live in a world of misery, sadness and sorrow.

The result is that the word 'Joy' is rarely referred to.

There are glimpses of it, just enough to remind us what we are missing.

Yes Joy, or gladness, is what man craves and sets his energies upon finding, but he looks in all the wrong places. Entertainment, pleasure seeking, and of course shopping; joining that throng milling around these huge modern day temples, worshippers with their long and hard faces. No you won't find joy there.

Nor too that rainbow's end - happiness.

■ Outside the Peacock pub (29th Jan 2018) written on a black board outside as one approaches are the words "are you happy" and below the two options "Yes?" / "no?" Then below like a flow diagram if you are happy then "Have a drink" and if you are not then.... "Have a drink"

You might find some pleasure, for a moment, but it will be gone like the wind.

No Joy is different, it is on another level.

It is not to be found in this world - but it is in the Bible. Over 200 times. That is because it is found in God. God is the source of Joy.

✚ So when a man finds God he finds Joy – and only then.

Some here today know about God, - but you do not know the Joy of God. x2

This morning we are looking at 'Joy' the fruit of the Spirit.

The Spirit mentioned is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus who lives in His people. As the *Nicene Creed* states: *"the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.*

Without the Holy Spirit you will not experience, - and thus manifest - the fruit of the Spirit, Love Joy peace etc.

For without the Spirit of God you do not have God. simple as that. God will remain just an idea in your head.

The way to receive the Spirit is obedience. Turn to Christ the Son in repentance and look to him and his finished work on the cross.

Without repentance there is no salvation. Unless you give up your claim on your life and submit to the Lordship of Christ you will never enter the kingdom of God.

Repentance is the key to this. **"In repentance ...is your salvation** says Is 30:15

■ We were thinking about the reformation briefly on Wednesday. Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to those large wooden doors of the church in Wittenburg. He was making the statement calling people back to the will of God and standing against the evil practices of the RC church.

The first of the 95 says:

1. When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said "Repent", He called for the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.

He then expands in the next three, if I can modernise the English somewhat

2. The word cannot be properly understood as referring to the sacrament of penance, i.e. confession and satisfaction, as administered by the clergy.
3. Yet its meaning is not restricted to repentance in one's heart; for such repentance is null unless it produces outward signs in various mortifications of the flesh.
4. As long as hatred of self abides (i.e. true inward repentance) the forgiveness of sin abides, viz., until we enter the kingdom of heaven.

There are sadly many who will not forsake their own way – for one much better. I am constantly being given the impression by people that if they take an hour and a half out of Sunday and leave their flat or house to come here then that will make a difference for eternity. If that is you then please do not be so deluded. It will make no difference at all.

I repeat **"In repentance ...is your salvation** says Is 30:15 That is what is commanded.

There are others here, - and you know what the Lord has done for you – but it has lost its edge – today, if you are honest, there's something missing, yes that Joy has gone.

The Holy Spirit is not able to do his work of glorifying Jesus by reproducing his character in you. He does this:

5. by leading Christians to greater victory over themselves and over sin;
6. by interceding for us in prayer and by teaching us to pray; and
7. by revealing God's will for our lives and by enabling us to walk in it.

The result is to produce the "fruit of the Spirit," the life of Christ within us.

But the Spirit can be grieved and suppressed. Someone has described the Spirit as a Gentleman, if you really don't wish to put self to death and submit to Christ which is right and good - then he will let you – but you will end up joyless, x2

Let us look at some of the way Joy is seen in the Bible that we may all live joyful Christian lives

✚ Theologian Albert Barnes says Joy is found **"In the love of God; in the evidences of pardon; in communion with the Redeemer, and in his service; in the duties of service in trial, and in the hope of heaven."**

■ Picture yourself standing outside of court, you have been charged and found guilty – now you await to be call in for sentencing...

Leviticus 9:24 **Fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell face down.**

Why the joy? Because the punishment, the sentence had been taken by a substitute. So there is Joy, he took away my guilt and I am free.

Psalms 43:4 **Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight.**

Isaiah 12:3 **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

When the people living in Samaria received the message of Christ and his salvation had come we are told **So there was great joy in that city.** Acts 8:8

So too when the message of Grace came to Greece

in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 1:6

The Holy Spirit pulls me into God and confirms that I am accepted, adopted. The Holy Spirit infuses in me the Joy of God, and I therefore find Joy in his word.

Jeremiah said: **When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.** Jer 15:16

Is there a joy welling up and over when you read His word? Jeremiah said he ate them, they were his food.

Christ's word and His truth lead the Christian to God.

The means of access is Jesus and his finished work on the cross. Through Jesus therefore I can come into the Presence. There in His presence is fullness of Joy.

No wonder Jesus's arrival was trumpeted as **good news of great joy.** Luke 2:10
Now clothed in Christ's righteousness I can enter in to the Holy of Holies - not in fearful dread - but joyfully.

Splendour and majesty are before him; strength and joy in his dwelling-place.
1 Chr 16:27 Temples worshippers we are told **ate and drank with great joy in the presence of the LORD on that day** 1 Chron 29:22

So as Christians we are in two places – we still live in this dark sin ridden world – but through Christ we are able to enter now into the Lord's presence.

One day, One day, we will enter his gates on our final journey to dwell with him in unbroken light and Joy. That is **the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,** Hebrews 12:22 That prospect should bring Joy.

- Ever received a ticket to a concert or to go to a game, there is joy in the ticket! Because of what it means and the prospect to come.
- Booked your holiday? there is almost as much joy in the holiday booked and its prospect ahead as in the holiday itself!

Psalms 16:11 **You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

Experiences in this troubled world

I am sure many of you would say "I am going through, right now, a whole raft of troubles and difficulties." Yes often unknown to others.

I had a chance to reflect on this, this week as I prepared this message on Joy.

- Last week was pretty demanding, knocked out with heavy cold and flu symptoms, a pounding head and feeling pretty ill I could easily have had quite a 'pity party' x2

'Where is your Joy now' x2. I heard the enemy say. Quite - but I did have Joy.

Yes I do have Joy, for I know I belong to Him. He is always with me. I will always be with Him. His Spirit enables me to see the unchanging Jesus who is my saviour, - and he enables me to see my circumstances differently too.

I'm reminded I am in Adam and I share in the consequences of sickness and pain, disappointments and despondency. I cannot escape that in this world. Christian and non-Christian alike have this. But I am now in Christ, - and if you are in Christ then you too have been chosen to be his very own.

Saved from many sins, a child of God, with his constant presences through everything I will face in this world, and I know when I leave I have no judgment to fear, I go to a better place. Here is Joy. It transcends my daily circumstances. It is on another level to circumstances, to my feelings, my emotions, my mind and my heart.

- The remedy is to take my mind off me - onto him,

✚ Our Joy is based on the promise that God is strong enough - and wise enough - to make all things work together for our good. God's Joy is based on that same sovereign control. He makes all things work together for his sovereign glory.

That is why "James can say **Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.**" Ja 1:1-3. Yes because the Lord is at work for good!

- Paul and Silas in prison
- Richard Wormbrand in a Romanian prison in Communist times said he experienced the closeness of Christ in a special way

The puritans spoke of a 'felt Christ'. x2 They lived – and if necessary died for him. This is found in living in obedience, denying self, taking up the cross daily and following Christ.

Jesus' life was one of Joy

He had Joy because of his obedience. Jesus entered into our griefs and understands our sorrows, and yet despite his sufferings his life was a life of Joy.

Warfield: We call our Lord "the Man of Sorrows," and truly he came into the world to bear the sins of men and to give his life a ransom for many. It is, however, not a designation which is applied to Christ in the NT.

Instead we read of a **Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit**, Luke 10:21 His joy was unaffected by the antagonisms surrounding him in this dark evil world – no he had eyes on the unmovable true God over all – in whom he entrusted all.

Jesus says if you too remain in my love as I do my father's then **my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete**. John 15:11

It is Jesus desire that we share his joy, hear him pray to the father...

John 17:13 **"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.**

It wasn't truth, or hope etc, but Joy. That most of us do not think of joy as a primary characteristic of the church probably indicates how little we regard it and how far we have moved from the spirit of the early church. The early church was a joyous assembly.

✚ *MH - joy, a constant delight in God. Yes constant, it is dynamic - A man or woman retains Joy if he continues to grow in Christ-likeness.*

■ *Just as a women in love delights to be in the presence of the object of her love.*

May our Joy be found basking in the light of God's love, revealed in the gift and the death of His Son, may that break upon our heart, that we will be filled at once **"with joy unspeakable and full of glory."**

True joy is unknown in the world in its present state; but there is a day coming when sorrow, suffering, death, and all the gloomy fruits of sin, will be done away with, and God Himself will wipe away all tears and fill the universe with joy unclouded and eternal. **"Future Joys and lasting pleasures"**

Paul said to the Christians in Galatia **What has happened to all your joy?** 4:15

Would Jesus - is Jesus - saying the same to me – and to you? **What has happened to all your joy?**

Has your Joy been stolen away?, have you missed the paradox that to die to self is to live with Christ? Or is self, x2, getting in the way of enjoying Him?

■ *In a darkened room the small window and crack of light.*

The moment we move out of God's will, out of his light you lose that closeness of presence – he feels further away, peace goes, Joy goes

That person you should contacted but haven't, that help for someone you haven't given, that wasting of time, that bad thought allowed to linger. Prayerlessness, Joy goes

Joyful Christians find satisfaction in whatever God gives them to do. They have said no to anything that will keep them from the richness of God's own blessing and His presence.

All this is summed up in the phrase **Be joyful always;** 1 Thessalonians 5:16

The answer is to constant be living in God's will, and doing his will.

✚ *That is where you find him – and where you find Him - you find Joy*

Yes: **"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice"** (4:4).

✚ *William Barclay comments: "This last greeting, rings triumphantly through the pages of the NT. . . . There is no virtue in the Christian life which is not made radiant with joy; there is no circumstance and no occasion which is not illumined with joy, A joyless life is not a Christian life, for joy is one constant in the recipe for Christian living."*

Paul speaks of the fruit of daily gladness in Romans 15:13 **"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,"** Rom 15:13

In conversion we find the hidden Treasure of the kingdom of God - and we venture all on it! And year after year in the struggles of life, we prove the value of the treasure again and again, and we discover depths of riches we had never known. And so the joy of faith grows. When Christ calls us to a new act of obedience that will cost us some temporal pleasure, we call to mind the surpassing value of following Him, and by faith in His proven worth, we forsake the worldly pleasure. The result? More joy! More faith! Deeper than before. And so we go on from joy to joy and faith to faith.

✚ *Behind the repentance that turns away from sin, and behind the faith that embraces Christ, is the birth of a new taste, a new longing, a new Passion for the pleasure of God's presence.*

"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls." 1

Peter 1:8-9

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