

The Fruit of Joy



Nehemiah 8:10

- **Review – “The Fruit of the Holy Spirit – Gal. 5:22-23**
- **The flesh produces “dead works,” but the Spirit produces living fruit, and this fruit has in it the seed of still more fruit.**
- **It is unfortunate that an overemphasis on gifts has led some Christians to neglect the graces of the Spirit.**
- **The fruit that is produced in the believer is the fruit of the Spirit.**
- **Only the Holy Spirit can produce the fruit of the Spirit and not by our own efforts.**
- **The word “fruit” is singular, not plural.**
- **When the Spirit lives inside the believer, all the traits are present.**

- **Lesson 2 – “The Fruit of Love” – 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**
- **Spiritual gifts, no matter how exciting and wonderful, are useless and even destructive if they are not ministered in love.**
- **You will not find a definition of love in chapter 13, but it explains what love is.**
- **The word agape is the highest word for love in the New Testament and means “divine love.”**
 - **There are three characteristics of Christian love.**
 - A. Love is enriching (v. 1-3).**
 - B. Love is edifying (v. 4-7).**
 - C. Love is enduring (v. 8-13).**

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- **Joy – an inner gladness; a deep-seated pleasure.**
- **The declaration of God’s Word, accompanied by a sincere desire to follow its instruction, will result in a true, heartfelt joy.**

- 1. Such joy acts as a fortress to guard us from the troubles and temptations of each day (Phil. 1:4; 1 Cor. 6:10).**

2. The secret of Christian joy is to believe what God says in His Word and act upon it (Psalm 30:5).
 - The contrasts in verse 5 are the motivation of David's praise: from God's anger to God's favor; from chastening for only a moment to a lifetime of His grace; from a night of weeping to a morning of joy.
3. Such joy acts as the power and motivation to persevere in faith until the end (Psalm 16:11).
 - A. The truth of Resurrection (16:10).
 - B. The truth of rapture (16:11). David foresaw the truth of the rapture.