



# Brimming With The Fruit Of Joy

**“But the fruit of the Spirit is Joy... against such there is no law.... If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22-25).**

Bulletin VCM-069

28 April 2013

Joy is described as one of the manifestations of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-25). It's source is God from whom the Spirit originate. True joy as a fruit of the Spirit begins to manifest in a life when the person has an encounter with God (John 3:3), thereby clearing the way for the Holy Spirit to work in his/her life to replicate the nature of God in the person. The Holy Spirit not only brings joy at salvation but it also sustains it throughout Christians lives irrespective of their circumstances.

## Manifestation of The Joy of The Spirit

The Greek word for joy is “Chara”, derived from the word “Charis” meaning “grace”. This implies that the joy of the Spirit is not based on human happiness but a divine product of the grace of God, that does not depend on nor can be affected by human circumstances no matter how negative or severe they may be. For example:

- 1) In I Thessalonians 1:6, the Christians were under great affliction, due to persecution; yet they continued to experience **“joy of the Holy Ghost”**.
- 2) In Acts 4:21-33 when the apostles were released from custody with serious threats, they praised God, a clear manifestation of the joy of the Spirit at work.
- 3) In Acts 5:41 after the apostles were released after beating and further threats, **“...they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name”**.
- 4) In Acts 16:25, Pau and Silas sang praises and prayed in the night at prison despite their wounds. It is only the Holy Spirit that could have given them such joy.
- 5) Though beset by many persecutions and trials, and absent from Colossae, Paul declared **“...yet am I with you in the spirit, joying ....”**

**“The joy of the LORD is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10)**



## Benefits of The Joy of The Spirit

Solomon pointed out that:

- 1) **“A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken”** (Proverbs 15:13);
- 2) **“All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast”** (Proverbs 15:15).
- 3) **“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones”** (Proverbs 17:22).

The absence of joy in a life is a spiritual sickness that affects physical life in the form of dryness, depression, paralysis, doom, defeat and destruction. It robs one of vision, purpose and strength for living. However, as pointed out by Nehemiah, “The joy of the Lord” produces inner strength to conquer all enemies and liberty to accomplish great missions to the glory of God (Nehemiah 8:10).

## Restoration of The Joy of The Spirit

Through unbelief, wrong focus, compromise, sin and quenching of the Holy Spirit (I Thessalonians 5:19) one can lose the joy of the Spirit. The good news is that like any other Christian experience, through repentance, faith and prayer the lost joy can be restored “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit” (Psalms 51:12).

## Maintaining The Joy of The Spirit

Every Christian can retain the Joy of the Spirit by retaining freshness of Christian experiences, abiding in Christ, communion with God, walking in the Spirit, focussing on Jesus (rather than circumstances / past), counting ones blessings and keeping eternity in view.