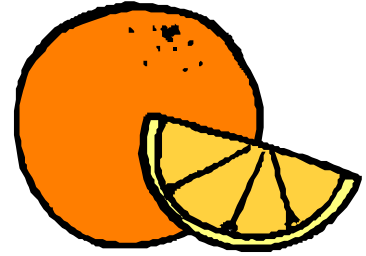


# Spirit Fruit



1 fruit 9 segments

## 2. JOY

Nehemiah 8 v 10

The joy of the Lord is so far apart from the joy of the world

Earthly joy is dependant on favourable circumstances 1 Thessalonians 1 v 6

The joy of the Lord is independent of favourable situations but totally dependant on God. 1 Peter 4 v 12 - 13

Nehemiah 8 v 10 is a good place to begin our study on joy because it appears in an understandable context...

- The walls of Jerusalem had been destroyed
- God raised up Nehemiah to lead a construction team
- All those available gave a helping hand
- There was opposition to the rebuilding by their neighbours
- They were ready to fight and build, trusting God
- The walls were completed
- People began returning
- Chapter 8, Ezra read the law which led to conviction and tears

Ezra encouraged them, *'do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength'*

Grieve = to carve or shape (in a bad sense), to worry, be pained, angry, displeased, hurt. It appears in a number of places and situations in the Old Testament...



Genesis 6 v 6



Genesis 34 v 1 - 7



Genesis 45 v 1 - 5



Isaiah 63 v 7 - 10

Back in Nehemiah 8, the people were grieving because of conviction

They had not heard the law read publicly for a long time and it had a profound effect on them.

Ezra could see their sorrow and encouraged them not to weep but to receive the joy (rejoicing / gladness) of the Lord which would be their strength (fortress, rock, strength and stronghold).

Here, then, is a picture of God turning their sorrow into joy.

We also see this principle of joy to sorrow in...



Psalms 30 v 5

Here is David in full praise mode, possibly as a result of God's healing (v2). He puts his struggle into context in verse 5 using a metaphor of an overnight guest.



Jeremiah 31 v 13

Back in chapter 30, Jeremiah looks forward to God's promise of restoration for Israel. This theme continues through chapters 30 and 31, a section which is sometimes referred to as God's consolation. When we look at chapter 31 v 13 we see God's promise to turn their sorrow to joy as He restores His people

1. The true segment of joy is not reliant on outward circumstances but on God Himself...



Matthew 5 v 12 Joy is synonymous with gladness or delight what delights us?

Psalm 40 v 8 (chaphets) to find pleasure to have a strong positive attraction for something

Psalm 119 v 16 (sha,a) to look upon something with pleasure

Isaiah 61 v 10 (suws) to greatly rejoice

2. Joy is not focused on possessions, relationships or situations but it has God as its central focus



Psalm 9 v 2a

Rejoicing in God



Psalm 33 v 21

Rejoicing and trust



Psalm 43 v 4

Rejoicing at the altar



Psalm 40 v 8

Doing God's will

By keeping God at the centre of all things, our joy is fixed on Him and not the things that surround us or happen to us, either for good or for bad

3. Joy focuses in on the many aspects of God



Luke 1 v 46 – 50

Mercy



Luke 1 v 51 – 53

His wonderful acts



Isaiah 44 v 23

Salvation



Revelation 19 v 7

Our future hope

#### 4. Joy comes through our personal relationship with Jesus (IN God THROUGH Christ)



Romans 5 v 11

Reconciliation



Philippians 3 v 3

Confidence in Christ alone  
the word 'glory' (Kauchaomai) means to boast,  
glory, joy, rejoice



John 8 v 56

In the revelation of Jesus



1 Peter 1 v 5

Joy through believing

#### 5. Joy enters our inmost being through the Holy Spirit



Luke 10 v 21

Jesus full of joy through the Holy Spirit



Romans 14 v 17

Joy given through (or by) the Holy Spirit

Joy resides in the heart of the believer, by the power of the Holy Spirit – the fruit of the spirit is Joy

#### 6. Joy is everlasting



Isaiah 35 v 10

Returning to Zion (also chapter 51 v 11)



Philippians 4 v 4

Rejoicing a part of our lives in all circumstances



John 16 v 17 - 22

Real Christian joy cannot be taken away

The hallmark of the Spirits fruit is that it is not transient but resident

7. Joy comes from God, not outward influences



Romans 15 v 13

To fill us with hope



Joel 2 v 23

The God who provides



Psalm 33 v 21

Trust in His name

8. There are many aspects to Christian Joy



Acts 16 v 34

Salvation



Psalm 33 v 21

Faith



Luke 19 v 1 – 9

A changed life



1 John 1 v 1 – 4

Unity in our salvation

The fruit of Joy is found in many areas of our lives in Christ. Our walk with Him and the changes in our experience of Him should be enough to bring us true joy

9. Joy is the result of true oneness in Christ



1 Thessalonians 3 v 9 True fellowship



Phil 4 v 10

Concern for each other

Joy is something which can be imparted to others simply by the way we live our lives for Christ. It is also something we share with one another

## 10. Joy, as seen in the life of Jesus



John 15 v 11

A full (complete) joy



John 17 v 13

Jesus came to share that joy



Luke 10 v 21

Jesus experienced joy over successful witnessing  
He expressed his joy in praise and thanksgiving to God



Hebrews 12 v 2

Jesus endured the cross because of joy



Luke 1 v 47

Jesus brought joy even before he was born

How do we get joy, live in joy and keep the joy of the Lord?

We have seen that joy comes from God, enters by the Spirit and is inspired by Jesus

Therefore, joy, which is meant to be forever, is maintained by a close walk with the Lord. Psalm 16 v 8 - 9

We also maintain joy by taking the medicine regularly Proverbs 17 v 22

If we follow these simple guidelines joy will keep us going Jude 24

The joy of the Lord is our strength – that's why it's so important and part of the fruit of the Spirit

The walls were built by Nehemiah and the people were

- The people were united

They asked Ezra to bring out the law (v1) – He did it by request

All the People assembled (v1)...

there was no forcing

no special invites or gimmicks

they were tired 9days after rebuilding completed)

They were 'as one' (v2)...

there was only one thing on their mind

- The people were attentive

The people listened attentively v3...

(lit. the ears of all the people were on the word)

The people were eager v4.....

(Ezra stood on a special platform)

He read the word for 5 – 6 hours (v3)

The Levites continued to instruct (teach) the people (v7 - 8)

- The people were responsive

Hearing the word of God is great – responding to the word of God is Essential  
- James 1 v 22 – 25

But their response was not simply obedience but Praise & worship...

v6 Ezra praised the Lord

v6 the people lifted their hands

v6 they responded 'Amen, Amen'

v6 They bowed down

v6 They worshipped the Lord

The Praise of the leader drew them in and ended in worship

COUNT IT ALL JOY!

James 1 v 1 – 4 is looked upon by many, as a key passage on the subject of Joy

The bible hinges on just 2 prominent themes in its 66 books...

1. the way to God (Salvation)
2. the walk with God (Servant-hood)

The majority dwelling on the latter, including James

There are many thoughts about trials, where they come from and their purpose.

1. a form of punishment from God
2. an attack from the enemy
3. part of everyday life that everyone goes through
4. that they will be ever present
5. if we trust God enough they will pass us by
6. that they don't really exist
7. that they are due to wrong confessions

It is worthy of note, that James speaks of when not if

If we look at some of the key words, it helps us to understand what James is saying

- count (we are to count it all joy) to think, esteem, reckon
- all (all joy) every bit / the totality
- trials or better still, testing, but testing that is dependant on the one testing  
if it is God it is to strengthen and deepen us  
if it is the enemy it is to bring us down, to fall
- many kinds (Greek word Polkilos) from which we get our word polka-dot – many in a splattered pattern.

James continues in verse 3 by saying that these trials should result in perseverance. It is a word which comes from 2 other words, under and abide and means to abide under.

We need to see though, in the context of God's supremacy that trials have a purpose (v 3 – 4) and in order to benefit from the purpose, we have to stop viewing trials as unnecessary evil and see if there is a test which we can pass

Testing in v3 – comes from Greek dokimos which speaks of approval. Dokimos is found on the undersides of many ancient pieces of pottery found by archeologists in the near east. It meant that the item had gone through the furnace without cracking and thus had been approved.

Where does temptation/testing come from? – verses 12-15 the word for tempting comes from the same word as trials. We learn from these verses that we are not dragged away by temptation but by our own desires. It is not the temptation that brings sin into our lives, but inward desires. We cannot stop wrong/bad thoughts entering our minds but we can choose not to give such thoughts any time or space.

We are not to deny trials or the pain they cause but to look at it from the aspect of joy in the same way that Jesus endured the cross because of joy (Hebrews 12 v 2)