

The Fruit of the Spirit

(Lesson 3)

Introduction:

1. "The fruit of the Spirit" consists of 9 characteristics listed in Galatians 5:22-23.
2. "Joy," the second of these special characteristics, is an important part of Christianity.
 - a. We have reason to rejoice when we become Christians (Acts 8:35-39).
 - b. We are to continue to rejoice after we become Christians.

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE TEACHES CHRISTIANS TO BE FILLED WITH JOY
 - A. Some passages that stress this principle are Philippians 3:1; 4:4; and 1 Thessalonians 5:16.
 1. The joy under consideration is an inner gladness of heart that is only experienced by those who are *"in the Lord."*
 2. Those who are in the Lord are to rejoice *"always"* and *"evermore,"* even during times of sorrow (2 Corinthians 6:10a).
 - B. Christians are to rejoice while undergoing trials (Matthew 5:10-12; James 1:2).
 1. This type of joy was demonstrated by:
 - a. the apostles (Acts 5:40-41)
 - b. Paul and Silas (Acts 16:25)
 - c. Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2).
 2. The key to having this type of joy is *"rejoicing in hope"* (Romans 12:12).
- II. THE BIBLE ALSO TEACHES CHRISTIANS HOW TO BE FILLED WITH JOY
 - A. We must put away "the works of the flesh" (Galatians 5:19-21).
 1. The pleasure associated with sin only lasts *"for a season"* (Hebrews 11:25).
 2. David showed how sin robs one of joy (Psalm 51:1-4, 8, 12).
 - B. We must practice the Lord's teachings (John 15:10-11).
 - C. Some important instructions relating to joy are given in Philippians 4:4-9.
 1. We must:
 - a. practice "moderation" [forbearance] (vs.5)
 - b. not be "careful" [anxious, filled with worry] (vs.6)
 - c. think on the right things (vs.8; Proverbs 23:7a).
 2. Following these instructions will enable us to enjoy the blessings mentioned in vs.7, 9.

Conclusion:

1. To bear the fruit of the Spirit we must sow correctly (Galatians 6:7-8).
2. We will reap what we have sown.