

May 24 & 26, 2019



When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another. *Galatians 5:19 – 26*

☹ Wrong training is an enemy of joy.

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. *Romans 12:2*

☹ Unresolved guilt is an enemy of joy.

The hopes of the godly result in happiness, but the expectations of the wicked come to nothing. *Proverbs 10:28*

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and make me willing to obey You. *Psalms 51:12*

☹ A wounded ego is an enemy of joy.

Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs. *Proverbs 19:11*

☹ Tough times are an enemy of joy.

Laughter can conceal a heavy heart, but when the laughter ends, the grief remains. *Proverbs 14:13*

“We’re going up to Jerusalem, where the Son of Man will be betrayed to the leading priests and the teachers of religious law. They will sentence Him to die. Then they will hand Him over to the Romans to be mocked, flogged with a whip, and crucified.” *Matthew 20:18 – 19*

“When you produce much fruit, you are My true disciples. This brings great glory to My Father. I have loved you even as the Father has loved Me. Remain in My love. When you obey My commandments, you remain in My love, just as I obey My Father’s commandments and remain in His love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!” *Jesus in John 15:8 – 11*

“My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death.” *Jesus in Matthew 26:38*

Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion Who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. *Hebrews 12:1 – 2*

Start and continue an adventure with Jesus.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in Me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in Me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned.” *Jesus in John 15:5 – 6*

“Ask, using My name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy.” *Jesus in John 16:24*

Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in His suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing His glory when it is revealed to all the world. *1 Peter 4:12 – 13*

The joy of the Lord is your strength! *Nehemiah 8:10*

Love and serve other people.

“I have told you these things so that you will be filled with My joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is My commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.” *Jesus in John 15:11 – 12*

If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for Me, you will find it.” *Jesus in Matthew 10:39*

 **Focus on the eternal, not the temporary.**

“You will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to Me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy. It will be like a woman suffering the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives way to joy because she has brought a new baby into the world.”
Jesus in John 16:20 – 21

Our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.
2 Corinthians 4:17 – 18

You love Him even though you have never seen Him. Though you do not see Him now, you trust Him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.
1 Peter 1:8

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! *Philippians 4:4*

We were filled with laughter, and we sang for joy. And the other nations said, “What amazing things the Lord has done for them.” *Psalms 126:2*

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