

## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: Joy

Nehemiah 8:9-12 ❖ Galatians 5:22b

*“All virtues proceed from the Spirit, that is, from the grace of God, and the renewed nature which we derive from Christ.”*  
(“Calvin’s Commentaries” Volume XXI, John Calvin, 167)

### Introduction

Have you ever know someone whose joy was contagious?

“The fruit of the Spirit is the natural produce that appears in the lives of Christians.” (“The Message of Galatians,” John Stott, 148)

### What is Joy?

Joy is not the same thing as happiness.

Joy does not depend on circumstances.

Joy is not based on how you feel.

Joy is not the result of positive thinking.

Nehemiah said, “The joy of the Lord is your strength.” Then the people celebrated with great joy, because they understood the words that had been made known to them” (Nehemiah 8:10, 12).

“I’ve got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart. Where? Down in my heart to stay!”

### Joy Toward God

Question 1: “What is the chief end of man?”

Answer: “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever” (“The Shorter Catechism, Westminster Confession of Faith,” 1648).

Is your worship joyful? (Psalm 100:1-2)

Is your personal relationship with the Lord marked by joy?

### Joy Toward Others

“Joy denotes the cheerful behavior towards our fellow man which is the opposite of moroseness.” (Ibid, Calvin, 167-168)

The Holy Spirit prevents us from being “ill” with people.

### Joy Toward Ourselves

“I praise You, Lord, because I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:13).

Jesus said to His disciples, “Remain in My love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete” (John 15:10-11).

### Takeaway

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2).

Is your joy contagious? If not, would you like it to be?

What could be more joyful than knowing God’s love will never let you go?!