Bible Study Packet The Fruit of the Spirit: Joy



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The Fruit of the Spirit Read Galatians 5:16-26

Joy: Rejoicing in Any Situation For this lesson read: Philippians 1:12-26

1. Read Philippians 1:12-26. What are the reasons Paul says he will rejoice?

2. What circumstances and situations do you see in this passage that might serve as a hindrance to joy?

3. As Paul writes this letter to the Philippians, he is in prison (either in Rome or Ephesus). How has Paul's imprisonment "actually served to advance the gospel"? (Philippians 1:12, NIV)

4. Paul's imprisonment for Christ might have made others fearful that they would share his fate if they preached the gospel. Why do you think that instead, they became more confident and fearless? (See verse 14)

5. What contrasting motives for preaching the gospel are mentioned in verses 15-17?

6. Why might some Christians preach Christ "out of selfish ambition" or want to "make Paul's chains more painful" while he was in prison? (See verse 17)

7. Even though Paul is in prison and in chains, which would make most people miserable, he is full of joy (see verse 18). What does this tell us about his most important values and goals in life?

8. When you face hardships or difficulties, how can your faith in Christ enable you to experience Paul's kind of joy?

9. Paul also rejoices because he believes that the Philippians' prayers and God's provision (see verse 19) lead to my "deliverance". Considering verses 20-26, do you think Paul expects to be released from prison or to enter the presence of Christ? Why?

10. Paul states that "for to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (verse 21). How can that outlook provide a far deeper joy than a life of selfcenteredness can offer?

11. When most people face a life-threatening situation, they normally think it would be "better by far" (verse 23) if they lived rather than died. Why do you think Paul feels the opposite?

12. The Holy Spirit produces unshakeable joy in our lives, regardless of circumstances. What are ways you can seek a deeper connection with the Holy Spirit's work and promptings so that His joy might be manifested in you?

13. Throughout this passage, Paul finds joy in sacrificial service to Christ and his fellow believers. To what extent does that mirror your own outlook on life?

14. What can you do to more fully follow Paul's example?

For Further Study

In John 15:11, Jesus tells His disciples: "I have told you these things so you may be filled with joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!" What does Jesus tell them in verses 1-17 that would give them joy?