

WHERE JOY COMES FROM

The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

Galatians 5:22,23 and Luke 10:1-24
 Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades
 November 27, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Introduction:

When was last time you experienced JOY? Feeling of warmth, wholeness, blessing? Close eyes Picture it ... This past Thursday ... with the Farmer family, around the table. Exploding with joy, everyone had something deep they wanted to share. Tears, laughter, deep and abiding joy. Recounting Miracles. I hope you experienced it too! And if you did ... My guess is that our stories would have one thing in common ... every story would include people, focused on people, built around people.

Keep picture in mind, faces (capture the feeling) ... join me in investigating ... **Where JOY comes from.**

Please open your Bibles to Galatians 5:22,23. Page 826

Discovering Holy Spirit in the New Testament. All over the place. Seeing Him like we've never noticed Him before. Not just to learn, but so we can experience fullness, presence, power of indwelling God. Written to a fellowship of churches in Galatia, modern Turkey; Once they were overflowing with joy; Something tragic had happened, joy once had, now gone. **Gal 4:15** *What has happened to all your joy?* Paul, spiritual mentor, writes to tell us how we can get JOY back ...

v. 16 when we live by Spirit ... v. 18 when we are led by Spirit ... Spirit produces spiritual fruit.

READ Galatians 5:22,23

While the fruit of the Spirit (Holy Spirit) is to be taken as a cluster; today we will focus on JOY.

Where does JOY come from?

Not talking about happiness, BIG difference between happiness and JOY (in some ways related).

Happiness is dependent largely on circumstances. Happiness is focused on things.

Ill. Happy when you closed deal, lease new Audi, Johnnie's baseball team wins, you have a day off work.

Happiness is dependent largely on circumstances. Whereas JOY is deeper; not dependent on circumstances. Happiness focused on circumstances and things, JOY is focused on people.

Ill. Research ... Psychologists and neuroscientists have done all kinds of research into the anatomy of joy. They've mapped the pleasure centers in the brain; they've isolated "joy genes" in our DNA; they've identified the chemicals that stimulate pleasurable feelings; they've studied identical twins in order to explore environmental factors. But the bottom line is that there's still a mystery about where joy comes from.

Have a pretty good idea of where it doesn't come from ...

Ill. Money, success, status, age, gender, physical health or attractiveness. MISERABLE PEOPLE.

SCRIPTURE reminds us that even in the midst of a party it is possible to miss out on the joy.

Ill. The older brother in the prodigal story. Big Party and he was sulking. DAD = JOY, Son = JOY. Brother = Miserable; Why, bitterness, strife, division, contempt, envy, selfishness, strife.

EXPERIENCES OF JOY ALMOST ALWAYS INVOLVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

JOY flows into and out of our lives through RELATIONSHIPS.

A team of psychologists from UCLA put it this way: "Joy springs from connection and communion between the joyous and another person, object, or idea." Those are their words—connection and communion. In other words, joy isn't something we attain or produce, it's something we receive.

Ill. Think of times when you've experienced JOY. Wedding, birth, graduation, t-give feast, Christmas morn Bring it back up in your mind, recreate the moment. My guess is that no matter where you are or what you're doing, there are other people there. The JOY comes from being with them.

JOY ... when we see someone we love grow, use gifts, succeed, accomplish goal. Make commitments.
 Ill. Baptisms last week. Brad Smith and Leah Smith (not biologically related, same spiritual family).
 Ill. Think of it this way: a light bulb has within it all the necessary wiring to light up, but the bulb has to be connected to some external source of power to actually produce light. In the same way, we are wired to experience joy, but some kind of connection is required for that joy to come to life.
 If there is NO CONNECTION ... you will have NO JOY.

Where does JOY come from?

JOY flows into and out of our lives through RELATIONSHIPS.

JOY flows out of our relationship with God and into our relationships with others.

Try as we may, JOY can't be manufactured. Instead ... it is produced by HS. As hard as we try, we can't create it, we can't muster it. Mysterious and illusive; comes over us when we least expect it.

JOY flows into us individually through the indwelling Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 6:19

JOY flows out of us and into the body (church) through the indwelling Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 3:16

Coming to church is supposed to be a joyful experience.

Ill. Wilkerson ... woman who visited and was surprised by experience. Didn't expect to enjoy.

Ill. Children who beg their parents to take them to church/AWANA because they enjoy it so much.

Galatians was written to the church (more than one); apply the fruit to individuals, but it was also meant to be applied to us as a church.

CALVARY CHURCH is to be filled with the Spirit, fruit of the Spirit when we get together.

What brings Jesus JOY?

Luke 10. Page 734. One of the places where we find Jesus experiencing JOY.

STORY ... Jesus expands beyond the 12. Sends out 72 2x2 with very specific instructions. Authorizes them to heal sick, announce the kingdom. They come back overflowing with JOY. **v. 17**

Being together brought them JOY ... ministered together. Effective miraculous ministry to real people.

Exercising gifts brought them JOY ... any time you use gifts and give yourself away to serve other.

Come back expressing JOY. Ill. Mission trips. Had to tell story. JOY is contagious and infectious.

Read Luke 10:21

Spiritually alive, Spirit-filled believers brought Joy to Jesus heart.

When Jesus sees us serve together, grow in grace and power, using gifts ... brings Jesus JOY.

Seeing them come spiritually alive in power of Spirit, hearing their stories of how Spirit used them.

His JOY was the delight of seeing them grow, succeed.

Ill. Sally and water skis. Stacy in the 2nd grade play. Sat around the table on Thursday and realized that God had answered my prayers beyond my wildest imagination.

JOY comes when we are present to witness others make a discovery, master a skill, conquer a fear, or become more like Jesus Christ. This kind of joy doesn't happen—it flows! It flows when we open our lives up to God's Spirit;

Conclusion:

Joy comes from relationship ... growing relationship with God and healthy relationship with others.

"When we let Him lead us into deep and honest connections with other and when we delight in the miraculous work God is doing in each of our lives ...we experience JOY."

Where does JOY come from? From HS, as we connect with God and with His people.

You want JOY ... connected to God through power of HS. Connect with God's people.