

“HOW CAN YOU BE JOYFUL?”

Fruitful Living – Part 2

April 14, 2013

Galatians 5:22-23a (NIV) “The fruit of the Spirit is love, JOY, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

Joyful Relationships Are Killed By...

1. SELFISHNESS.

James 4:1-2 (GNT) “Where do all the fights and quarrels among you come from? They come from your desires for pleasure, which are constantly fighting within you... ²you strongly desire things, but you cannot get them, so you quarrel and fight...”

2. RESENTMENT.

Proverbs 11:29 (TLB) “The fool who provokes his family to anger and resentment will finally have nothing worthwhile left.”

3. FEAR.

1 John 4:18 (Phillips) “Fear always contains some of the torture of feeling guilty. The one who lives in fear has not yet had his love perfected.”

To Find Joy In Relationships...

1. Focus on GIVING rather than receiving.

3 Kinds of Love: “I love you

IF, BECAUSE or PERIOD!”

2 Peter 1:6-7 (TLB) “Learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly... ⁷This will make possible the next step, which is for you to enjoy other people and to like them, and finally you will grow to love them deeply.”

2. Focus on HEALING rather than hurting.

Romans 5:3-4a (NLT) “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴And endurance develops strength of character...”

“Joy” is the CONFIDENCE of knowing and trusting God regardless of the circumstances.

3. Focus on God’s POWER rather than your problems.

Psalms 62:8 (GNT) “Trust in God at all times, my people. Tell Him all your troubles, for He is our refuge.”

Philippians 4:4 (NLT) “Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again – rejoice!”

You Can Be Joyful In Spite Of Your Circumstances...

- Because God is WITH you.

Isaiah 43:2 (GNT) “When you pass through deep waters I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you.”

Psalms 16:11b (NKJV) “...In Your presence is fullness of joy...”

- Because God has a PLAN for you.

Psalms 50:15 (CEV) “Pray to Me in time of trouble. I will rescue you, and you will honor Me.”

- Because God will HELP you.

Psalms 43:5 (NLT) “Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise Him again—my Savior and my God!”

John 16:24 (NIV) “Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”