

The fruit of the Spirit is ... joy (Galatians 5:22-23)

Introduction

- Why is it important to think about joy?
- What might our joy be when other people see it?

i What is joy?

- What does the basic Hebrew word for joy (שמחה) mean?
- What does the basic Greek word for joy (χαρά) mean?
- So what is joy?
- What is true of the joy of those who do not follow Christ?
- Where, according to Psalm 43:4, does Christian joy come from?
- Why is this better than any other kind of joy?
- Why is this the key to joy?
- What do you need to do if you do not know God personally?

ii Where do we see joy?

- Where do we see the best example of joy?
- List three passages where Jesus' joy is mentioned.

i)

ii)

iii)

- Why does this matter to us?
- In the normal times of life, do you feel joy?
- What can be true of us even when we are suffering?

iii How do we grow joy?

- How does any facet of the fruit of the Spirit grow?
- What did Christians of years gone by used to speak about?
- How, then, can we best grow in joy?
- In what way could this change the way you think about church and quiet times?

iv Why do we need it?

- What is the joy we experience here on earth meant to point us to?
- What does Psalm 16:11 say about the joy we will have then?
- So what should our joy do to us?

Conclusion

- Can you see this aspect of the fruit of the Spirit in your life? Can others?