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## Two Of Nine – JOY

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‘But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.’ Gal. 5:22

The Utley commentary has this to say about the fruit of JOY, "*joy*" *Joy is an attitude of life that rejoices in who we are in Christ regardless of circumstances.*

This fruit is the product of the Holy Spirit, as we stated before in the lesson on love, it is not something that is produced by our own abilities. But we need to also understand that the scripture teaches us "he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit" (1Co 6:17), so as we stated before our born again spirits also produce this fruit. Our spirits always have these inside of us regardless of what we feel like or how our emotions are for that day.

By not understanding this has caused many believers and non-believers to think they would be hypocrites to express joy when truly they are depressed. But, it's only our soulish part that we get depressed (soul = mind, will & emotions). Our born again spirits are always bearing the fruit of "love, joy, peace, etc". So when we understand what our spirit is and our soul and our body and how they operate we will then understand or come to realize that when we let our soul dominate our spiritual self that is the actual hypocrisy. Why? Because our spirits are never depressed. When it is understood that we have a choice, we can let the Holy Spirit through our born again spirits release the force of joy or love or peace and so on. But it is our choice to be depressed or down or hateful we can walk in the Spirit if we choose.

There are over 60 verses in the New Testament about joy, not to mention the ones on joyfulness or joyful or joy in the Holy Ghost. Joy is something that is a part of every believer and should be expressed in our everyday walk, we are to have joy in Christ. Joy is not something that should come and go...one day you have it, the next day you do not. It is like faith, ever present. But we do have to draw it out, not go and get it because it is in us like faith...remember the old Ragu spaghetti sauce commercial slogan "*It's In There*"!

When we are born again we were all given the same measure of faith (Rom. 12:3) (As a note let me say this..in the NKJV of Rom. 12:3 it says “a” measure of faith and I think this is very dangerous and wrong, when we are all given “the measure of faith” it means we are on a level playing field you have the same as I do and all other believers but to say “a” measure leaves the understanding that your measure may be more than mine or less and that is not the case. Peter says we have “like precious faith” (II Pet. 1:1). So it would be correct to say that all believers have the same measure of faith at salvation but not all believers use what God has given them.)

Therefore, to say we are growing in faith is correct. One could have great faith or little faith but it is important to understand that this is speaking of how much faith believers *use or manifest*, not how much faith they were given. All believers were given "the" same measure of faith.

The Greek word for ‘joy’ is *Kevo*, derived from the word *charis*, which is the Greek word for ‘grace.’ This is significant to note, for *chara* is produced by the *charis* of God. This means ‘joy’ is not a human-based happiness that comes and goes but, rather, true ‘joy’ is divine in its origin.

“Does this mean we as believers just walk around with grin on our face and act as if we don’t have a care in the world?” Well, honestly, yes, that is what we should do according to what Jesus said in Luke 21:34 and in 1 Peter 5:7 which says “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

Now what this does not say is for us to cast some of our cares on Him and we take some of them, like two men carrying a heavy piece of furniture. Nope, He says to cast **A L L** our care on Him. But you cannot do this without humbling yourself before God as the scripture says just before this one. I really like what Pastor Gary W. Everett says in his book “Study notes on the Scriptures 2013”

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*If the Lord tells us to cast all of our cares upon Him, then He is concerned about each one of them. Now, every worry we may cast upon Him is not necessarily important; thus, the Scriptures tell us that He cares for us. That is, our redemption and well-being is what God is focused upon, while He helps us sort through those things in life that we consider important. He has a way of bringing us into maturity so that we no longer worry about the things that used to bother us, and we no longer pursue the things we did while immature.”*

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I understand this is easier said than done, but as we grow in our relationship with God and learn to walk in the spirit and not the flesh we will see this more and more in our lives. In order to do this we must understand how much God really does love us and when we begin to understand these things we will see the importance of living a life unto good works (Eph.2:10) and a having a clear conscience before all, this allows joy to manifest openly. Please understand there is a big difference between being saved **by** good works and being saved **unto** good works, as stated here. We do not gain salvation by good works, but they do affirm that salvation has been received into our lives. Good works cannot and never will produce a new nature, but our new nature should produce good works!

So here are just a few scriptures on Joy. Read them and make them a part of your thinking and grow thereby in the Word of the unchanging God.

- [John 15:11](#) - These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.
- [Romans 14:17](#) - For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
- [Acts 20:24](#) - But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.
- [Romans 15:13](#) - Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.
- [James 1:2](#) - My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
- [1 Peter 1:8](#) - Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:
- [1 John 1:4](#) - And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.
- [Jude 1:24](#) - Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Blessings!! and remember...look to your future and not to the past, learn to live in the grace of God and love much, forgive always and hold no bitterness toward anyone.

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