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The Fruit of the Ruach is Joy

5: 22b

The fruit of the Ruach is joy DIG: How are grace and joy connected? How are James 1:2-3 and First Peter 4:10 related to each other? What relationship does joy have with happiness? Where does joy come from? What surprising conclusion did James come to about joy? What is the key to having joy in your life? Why should we be joyful? How can we express our joy?

REFLECT: How has God's grace in your life brought you joy, either by being fulfilled or by a promise? How have the various colors of trouble in your life been matched by the various colors of grace given to you by God? Are you seeking the joy of ADONAI or the ADONAI of joy? Why should you be full of joy today? How do we express our joy?

When Paul spoke of **walking by the Ruach (to see link click [By - Walk by the Ruach, and Not the Desires of the Flesh](#))**, he was not referring to following after mystical visions and revelations. Instead, he provided a list of attributes that describe a **Ruach**-led person. Thus, the evidence of **the fruit of the Ruach** is a changed life. Paul now presents the proper path according to which those faithful to God in His Messiah should walk. **The fruit** stands in contrast to **the deeds of the flesh**. **The Ruach's fruit** simply shows us the qualities which characterize the Kingdom of God. **But, in contrast to the deeds of the flesh, the fruit of the Ruach (singular, like a cluster of grapes) is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (5:22a). All of these elements should be a part of your life as you allow the Ruach ha-Kodesh to flow through you.**



The second manifestation of **the Ruach** is **joy** (Greek: *chara*), and it is linked with the key word in the book of **Galatians**, which is the word **grace** (Greek: *charis*). Those two words sound very similar, *chara* and *charis*. The two words come from the same root and are connected because **joy** flows out of **grace**. When you understand **God's grace** in your life, either a promise or fulfilled, it brings us **joy**.

ADONAI has promised us some things by **His** grace that haven't happened yet. **He** has promised that one day **He** is going to return and establish **His** Messianic Kingdom for a thousand years. **He** has promised us that one day **He** is going to take us from this world into heaven. **He** has promised that to be absent from the body is to be present with **Him**. We haven't experienced those things yet, but the promise of those things gives us **joy**. And then there are those things that have already been fulfilled.

The word **joy** is used some 350 times in the bible where the word **joy**, or some variation of the word is used. In the TaNaKh there are 27 different words to describe **joy**. It is a key element of our faith and you should be able to understand what it means to have **the joy of ADONAI**.

Do not let what is good for you be spoken of as evil - for the Kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking, but righteousness and shalom and joy in the Ruach ha-Kodesh (Romans 14:16-17). Many times people equate the word **joy** with happiness. But nothing could be further from the truth. Happiness is based on the favorable circumstances of your life. It's like waves on the beach, happiness comes and goes. And sometimes the waves of happiness are bigger one day than they are at other times. But it is not based on circumstances. **Joy** is based on **God's grace**. **Joy** is the deep-down sense of well-being that abides in **the heart** of a person who knows all is well between himself and **the Lord**. It is **God's** gift to believers. Let's look at some passages about **joy**.

James (see [Ap - Yeshua's half-brother James, Jacob or Ya'akov](#)) makes a very unusual statement: **Consider it all joy, my brethren,** (when everything goes your way? No!) **when you encounter various** (Greek: *poikilos*, meaning *of various colors, diversified*) **trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance (James 1:2-3). Consider it all joy when trials** come your way *in different colors*. **Trials** come in all shades and *colors*. We have already learned that the overflow of **God's grace** is **joy**. They are connected. So, in **First Peter 4:10**, we learn that **as each one** of us **has received a gift**, we are to **use it to serve one another, as good stewards of the various colors** (Greek: *poikilos*) **of God's grace. For every color of trouble that comes our way, God has a corresponding color of grace to match it.**

The Talmud asserts that, "When the Torah was forgotten from Isra'el, Ezra came up from Babylon and established it" (Talmud Succ. 20a). Ezra came and read from **the Torah**, which had a shattering impact upon **his** audience. Just as the reading of the scroll of **Deuteronomy** triggered a revival under **Josiah** (see the commentary on [Jeremiah Ai - Josiah Ruled For 31 Years from 640 to 609 BC](#)), reading of **the Torah scroll** triggered the need for **everyone** to repent. **They wept** as **they** confessed **their sins**. **Then, Ezra, the cohen-scribe said to all the people, "Today is kadosh to ADONAI your God. Do not mourn or weep!"** For all the people had been weeping when they heard the words of the Torah. But Ezra declared: **Do not grieve, for the joy of ADONAI, which flows out of His grace, is your strength (Nehemiah 8:9-10). If you realize that you are losing your joy, focus on your relationship with ADONAI. The key is that joy really isn't a feeling, but like love, it's a decision. Joy is a choice. We choose to be joyful. The closer we get to the Lord, the more His joy flows from you. We shouldn't be as interested in seeking the joy of ADONAI, as much as we should be interested in seeking the ADONAI of joy.**

Why should we be full of **joy**? Well, first of all, **He** saved us. He has forgiven our **sins** and redeemed us and lives inside of us. That ought to bring us **joy**. In the parable of the Lost Sheep (see the commentary on [The Life of Christ Hs - The Parable of the Lost Sheep](#)) there was much **joy** in heaven because one lost person had been found. We ought to be full of **joy** because of those who have been delivered from addiction. The chains that had them bound have been broken. They don't live as slaves to that any more. People have been freed from toxic relationships. People who have been freed from their enemies. **He** has set us free.

How do we express our **joyfulness**? First, thank **ADONAI** for what **He** has done in your life. That makes you focus on **His** grace and **His** blessings and gets your mind off of your **trials**.

Secondly, give of what others have given to you. Tithe, yes, but also use your spiritual gift(s) to minister to others. When you use your spiritual gift(s) you will experience much **joy**. Give others **God's** truth, give them hope. Every believer needs to serve in some way or another.

The Ruach ha-Kodesh says to every age: **Rejoice in the Lord always - and again I say, rejoice (Philippians 4:4)!** This is not a suggestion. It is not a good idea. It's not something to do if you get around to it. It is a command. Notice what **He** didn't say. **He** didn't say, "**Rejoice** in your wealth." **He** didn't say, "**Rejoice** in your health." **He** didn't say, "**Rejoice** in your ability to get things done." All those things are going to pass away. Look at what **He** said: **Rejoice in the Lord always.** Living your life **joyfully** is not an emotion or a feeling, it's **always** a choice.

*Dear Great Heavenly **Father**, How much we love and praise **You!** **You** are such a joy to know! It is such a joy and blessing to realize that we are freed from earning salvation by works, and can trust in **Your** atoning work done for us by **Your Son as the lamb of God (John 1:29)** sacrificed in our place (**Leviticus 1:4**), bearing our punishment for **sin (Hebrews 9:26)**. **For by grace you have saved through faith. And this is not from yourselves - it is the gift of God. It is not based on deeds, so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9).***

*It is so wonderful to meditate on **Your** awesome character, **Your** heshed loving-kindness, **Your** mercy and grace that opened the door to Heaven by **Your** giving us **Your Son** as our **sin** offering and then clothing us in **His** righteousness. **He made the One who knew no sin to become a sin offering on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (Second Corinthians 5:21).***

*It is such a joy and comfort to know that no trial will come upon us without **Your** knowing about it and that **Your** presence is with us in the trial: **For God Himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5c)**. Even if the trial is because of what someone else has done to us, we rejoice that your power is greater than any man's power and so we rest in your love and strength, **so that with confidence we say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13:6).***

*Your Awesome, Magnificent Love causes us to desire to respond back with our joy and to lovingly offer you ourselves - our time, thoughts, finances, relationships and all that we have. We desire to please **You** with we have and are - for **Your** eternal glory. In the name of **Your Holy Son** and the power of **His** resurrection. Amen*