



❖ MESSAGE NOTES

GOOD FRUIT: Week 2 - Joy & Peace

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ~ Galatians 5:22-23 (NET)

Christian joy and human happiness, while linked of course, are not actually the same thing.

CHARA ~ GREEK

to extend favor to someone, to lean towards someone,
to be favorably disposed toward someone

You lead me in the path of life. I experience absolute joy in your presence; you always give me sheer delight. ~ Psalm 16:11 (NET)

The Lord's precepts are fair and make one joyful. The Lord's commands are pure and give insight for life. ~ Psalm 19:8 (NET)

Ezra opened the book in plain view[g] of all the people, for he was elevated above all the people. When he opened the book,[h] all the people stood up. Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people replied "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ~ Nehemiah 8:5-6 (NET)

SHACHAH ~ HEBREW

to bow down low in worship and reverence to God

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priestly scribe, and the Levites who were imparting understanding to the people said to all of them, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping when they heard the words of the law. He said to them, "Go and eat delicacies and drink sweet drinks and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared. For this day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Then the Levites quieted all the people saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy. Do not grieve." So all the people departed to eat and drink and to share their food with others and to enjoy tremendous joy, for they had gained insight in the matters that had been made known to them. ~ Nehemiah 8:9-12 (NET)

SHALOM ~ HEBREW

Shalom can refer both to external peace, the absence of conflict, but more often it is used to refer to an inner peace, completeness, soundness and welfare.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be distressed or lacking in courage. - John 14:27 (NET)
"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace but a sword! ~ Matthew 10:34 (NET)*

EIRENE ~ GREEK

peace

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice! Let everyone see your gentleness. The Lord is near! Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God. And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:4-7 (NET)

OSWALD CHAMBERS

If I can stay calm, faithful, and unconfused while in the middle of the turmoil of life, the goal of the purpose of God is being accomplished in me. What He desires for me is that I see "Him walking on the sea" with no shore, no success, nor goal in sight, but simply having the absolute certainty that everything is all right because I see "Him walking on the sea."

But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. ~ Isaiah 65:18 (KJV)

❖ **DIVE IN! ~ Discussion Questions**

1. What was one thing Pastor G said this week that spoke directly to you?
2. Are you inspired by that to make a decision, make a change, or take some action in your life?

◆ **READ:** *Psalm 16:11 and Psalm 19:8*

1. David is very confident in the joy of the Lord, experiencing it with words like "absolutely" and "always." According to these two verses, how does David experience the joy of the Lord? (Hint: Two things are mentioned, one in each verse, both starting with the letter p.)
2. Do you experience joy in the same way from the same sources as David? Why or why not?

◆ **READ:** *Nehemiah 8:1-12*

1. All the people were eager to hear the book of the Law (The Torah/The Pentateuch) read and taught aloud. They stood for six hours, outside, to listen to it read and taught in its entirety. Do you feel like most people today are as eager to listen to God's word being read aloud and taught? Why or why not?
2. Why were the people mourning and weeping while the Law was being read?
3. How did their mourning quickly turn to joy?

4. What does it mean that "the joy of the Lord is your strength?" How have you found that to be true in your life?

◆ **READ:** *John 14:27, Matthew 10:34*

1. Pastor Greg shared how some critics of Christianity point to these two verses and say they are contradictory. Greg shared why they are not. Can you explain the full context of these two verses and why they are complimentary, not contradictory, in your own words?

◆ **READ:** *Philippians 4:4-7 & Isaiah 65:18*

1. Paul says "rejoice always!" Paul says "Do not be anxious about ANYTHING." Isaiah tells us God commands us to "Be glad and rejoice forever." How often are you able to live completely anxiety-free in perpetual rejoicing? Do you struggle with that or is that your normal mode of operation?
2. What is the system for becoming anxiety free according to Paul?
3. Have you tried to put this into practice in your life fully? Have you seen God's peace replace your anxiety in this way?