

## ***"Free to Rejoice"***

### **Ok, once again, my transformation:**

Is completely dependent on God's grace  
Requires death to my sinful nature  
Chooses daily live in the Spirit  
Nurtures growth of the Spirit's fruit

### **Of all the fruit, joy is the one**

Most desired, but least experience  
Most elusive, but least resisted

### **The million dollar question:**

If God wants me to have joy  
And I really want to experience joy  
Then why don't I have joy?

### **Is it possible for me to have joy and...**

Struggle with pain and depression?  
Be filled with loss and grief?  
Deal with uncertainty and unknown?

### **Answer: Only if joy is**

Received as a fruit	by grace
Expressed as an attitude	in behavior
Experienced as a privilege	as blessing

### **Requirements for nurturing joyful fruit:**

#### *Relationships of love*

God's love for me  
My love for God expressed as love for others

#### *Kingdom priorities*

Keeping things in their right place  
Keeping people in their right place

#### *Ministry investments*

Defeating the power of Satan  
Relishing in my salvation

### ***What keeps me from being free to rejoice today?***

### **John 15:9-12**

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

### **Luke 6:22-23**

22 Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

23 "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

### **Matt 13:44-46**

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

### **Luke 10:17-27**

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

## Galatians 5:13-26

13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is

***love***

***joy***

***peace***

***patience***

***kindness***

***goodness***

***faithfulness***

***gentleness***

***self-control***

Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

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## SERMON NOTES

*John 15:9-12*

*"Free to Rejoice"*



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