



Fellowship and Joy

By Pastor Sherry Gregory

Joy is something that everyone hungers for, yet true joy only comes from the inside. Happiness is an outward sign that someone is joyful, and joy tends to show in the demeanor or the mood of a person. Joy often manifests in laughter or sometimes in crying. It is directly connected with our emotions. Joy is one of the “Fruits of the Spirit” mentioned in Galatians 5:22. Joy is an attribute that brings energy, and inner peace, often joy is an outworking of satisfaction and stability. Babies show happiness when they are fed, dry and loved. Children usually are generally carefree and secure, allowing them to display the physical signs of joy, where adults are often stressed and it takes a little more effort for them to maintain joy.

Joy is something that can be masked by a smile or a joke, often a gregarious person outwardly, when inside a person may be hurting. Not to say that all of those who are outwardly upbeat are hiding their real feelings on the inside, to the contrary, but happiness is not always the truth. That is why it is important to not just look at the flesh, or judge by the flesh, but to know someone by spiritual discernment. Usually a discerning person can detect when someone who is a jokester is really very unhappy on the inside. There is an old song called the “Tears of a Clown” sung by Gary Lewis in my teen years, that was a hit song. The lyrics of the song said something to the effect that this person smiled and acted happy on the outside but inside they were crying the tears of a broken heart. A clown is supposed to bring joy, laughter, and be happy, but I am sure that if you have seen clowns, there is often included one that has a face that has tears running down the face and a downturned mouth.

When we read in Hebrews 10:25 not to forsake the assembling or gathering together of believers in fellowship, we think of conventional organized church meetings. This is supposed to be a joy generator, and should be when people who have like purpose and heart gather together to share that faith, to charge up their faith in joy, so that they can then go out into the world with the positive energy of Love. Too many times though, a time that is supposed to be energizing becomes a gossip session, and that is because people do not learn to have the intimate fellowship with the Lord on a daily basis that causes them to overflow that intimacy when they meet with fellow believers. But, when believers have made a lifestyle of intimacy with the Lord, then when they meet, it is good and right and serves as a way to energize their joy and catapult them back out into the world refreshed and focused so that nothing can move them when they are confronted with opposition from the enemy through the world and its evil ways. It becomes refreshing to someone who has been out in the world working or alone in their home all week,

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and they can come into a place that is safe where they can draw off of others' positive energy. People need fellowship to support and lift one another up. When we have friends who will share honestly with us, support us and be there for us it makes this life a lot easier to deal with in a positive light.

This study is meant to bring refreshing to you, to bring revelation to you and to cause you to rejoice! Refreshing to you in the sense of positive knowledge and understanding of how the "family" of God can work together, revelation to you in the sense of realizing God's purpose for the "family" unit whether in the natural or in the spirit. When you study and pray over this outline, ask God to reveal to you all that He wants you to absorb from this study, so that you can be filled with joy knowing that He has provided this study for you so that you can also teach others about His ways. Blessings, Pastor Sherry

I. The Power of Association and Fellowship: (****See definitions #1)

A. We associate, fellowship with and identify with Jesus.

1. John 14: 6 *I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me.* We have an obligation to lead people into the right association, the one that will get them eternal life, and new birth through Jesus is the only way to attain eternal life.
2. John 1: 12-14 *As many as did receive Him, He gave power...*
3. Acts 1: 4 *And while in their company and eating with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised Of which [He said] you have heard Me speak...Notice in this scripture that Jesus tells them of the coming of the promise, they heard it together and were able to be instructed together because they were assembled together. Without the leadership of Jesus and his ability to command, they would have not received the Promise of the Father!*
4. Ephesians 2: 10, 13, 14 *We are His own workmanship, being recreated in Christ, we who once were so far away now have been brought near, for He himself is our peace (our bond of unity and harmony), He has made both Jew and Gentile one body and has broken down the hostile dividing wall between us... Truly, unity of the Body of Christ has been accomplished through Christ's sacrifice.*
5. 2 Co 5:17 *If any man be ingrafted in Christ, he is a new creation...* Just as ornamental trees can be grafted into another type of tree to create a particular quality, so have we been grafted into Him, the Vine.
6. John 15: 1-7 *I am the Vine and My Father is the Vinedresser. Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit...* This scripture clearly tells us that without being vitally and continually connected with Him, receiving our nourishment from Him, we will not bear fruit and will be useless in the Kingdom of God.
7. 2 Co 3:6 *It is He Who has qualified us making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant...* We truly have been given all that He is and therefore need not be shy or hold back from ministering the New Covenant to every creature!

- B. We associate with the others who are in the "body" of Christ; fellow believers, leaders who have gone before us, those who need us to lead them. There is great power that is released in the spirit and in the natural by our unity and focus on like goals and purpose.

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1. ***Psalm 133: 1-3 *How precious it is when brethren dwell together...like the ointment that flowed down the beard... (****See definitions)*
2. Jeremiah 3:15 *And I will give you pastors according to mine heart which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding...(KJV) And I will give you [spiritual] shepherds after My own heart [in the final time] who will feed you with knowledge, and understanding and judgment...(AMP)* This scripture is an example of the order that God has laid out to build the Body of Christ into what Jesus paid for it to be. Other scriptures that support this are Ephesians 4:11- 16, Ephes 3:17-21, Ephes 5: 19-21, 32.
3. Proverbs 24:3-4 *Through skillful and godly Wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built, and by understanding it is established [on a sound and good foundation] And by knowledge shall its chambers [of every area] be filled with all precious and pleasant riches...***** Notice that in Psalm 133:1-3 the word dwell speaks of married, settled down, to sit with, to remain, to abide to continue to inhabit...this is an example of the way God operates and has provided for us to operate. This scripture indicates that when things are in proper order, that precious and pleasant riches are ours!
4. Acts 2: 41 *Therefore those who accepted and welcomed his message were baptized and many were added that day about 3,000 souls.* With the power that Peter preached in, there were many souls **added** to the Kingdom.
5. Acts 2:44-47 *And all who believed (who adhered to and trusted in and relied on Jesus Christ) were united and [together] they had everything in common; ...and the Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were being saved [from spiritual death].* In great unity and purpose the Lord added to them daily.
6. Acts 4: 30-35 *While you stretch out your hand to cure and to perform signs and wonders through the authority of Your Holy Child and servant Jesus...and when they had prayed the place in which they were assembled was shaken...Now the company of believers was of one heart and soul... and with great strength and ability and power the apostles delivered their testimony to the resurrection...and great grace rested richly upon them all, not there a destitute or needy person among them...* The early church served as an example to us...in unity and one accord there is great freedom to those who are called to preach. When everyone does their part in giving so that the leaders can devote themselves to the preaching of the gospel, great power is released.
7. Hebrews 10:21-25 *And having a high priest over the house of God, Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having hearts sprinkled..and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together...* We must not allow our personality differences, or anything else divide us causing the Blood-bought Body of Christ to be severed and separated...we must not forsake the gathering together in personal contact with each other, which will cause Him to have what He has already paid for. Let's let Jesus have his Bride!
8. I John 2:3-11 *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep His commandments, He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him...Whoever says he loves God [yet] hates his brethren [Christian, born-again Child of God his Father] is in darkness even until now.* This scripture is pretty straightforward. We must learn to LOVE our brothers and sisters in Christ!

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9. Hebrews 10:25, *Not forsaking or neglecting the assembling together [as believers] as is the habit of some people, but admonishing (warning, urging, and encouraging) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching.* It is good to bring the overflow of our intimate fellowship with the Lord to others and keep their enthusiasm energized by giving to them the strength of joy that fellowship with Jesus causes.
- C. We provide a higher standard of association for those who do not know Christ and for those who are yet “babes” in Christ.
1. Gal 3:29 *Abraham’s seed* If we are Christ’s then we are heirs according to the Abrahamic promise. We can influence those who do not know all that a life in Christ includes, just like a salesman would tell of the benefits of a particular product, so should we tell of the heirship of Christ.
 2. I Pt 2:9 *A Peculiar people* We are not just normal or usual human beings, we have been chosen by Him for a high purpose: to destroy the works of the devil, and to cause the reconciliation by way of Jesus Christ to the Father, to manifest in the lives of those we come in contact with.
 3. Prov 29:18 *Without a vision the people perish* People must know that there is more to life and more to themselves than they have realized. People need a focus of hope for their lives, and we carry the message of hope for the future!
 4. 2 Co 6:14 *Be not unequally yoked* We are not to lower ourselves down to the level of sinners to appeal to them or to coerce them, we do not have to have sinned to relate to the sinner...Jesus never sinned and HE is our example in this earth for the way we should conduct ourselves.
 5. Ps 68:5-6 *God leads people out to prosperity* Just as God the Father leads the captive to freedom, so should we. Poverty, lack, or disease, are not part of God’s Covenant promises or His will for His children. We also must lead others to freedom from bondages, sin and death.
- A. We lead after the example given us by the prophets, saints and most of all our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.
1. Prov 11:16 *A gracious woman retains honor and strong men retain riches. (KJV) A gracious and good woman wins honor [for her husband], and violent men win riches.* This scripture indicates that the out-workings or “fruits” of honor and riches are caused by graciousness (considerateness, kindness, patience and wisdom) and strength or violence (determination and action). Think on that one for a while!
 2. Prov 31:10 *A Virtuous Woman* The Word “Virtue” in this passage is Dunamis which is the power of the Holy Spirit controlling, guiding and leading this “woman” or this the “church” or the “bride” of Christ. A lot can be accomplished by the person who possesses the dunamis power IN them!
 3. John 14:7-12 *We see the Father through Jesus* When Philip asked Jesus to show him the Father, obviously he had no concept of the intimate relationship that Jesus had with the Father, and that Jesus was the physical (human) manifestation of the Father. As we are IN CHRIST, we too are the physical manifestation of the Father in heaven.
 4. Ephesians 6: 10-18 *In conclusion, be strong in the Lord and empowered through your union with Him: draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides]. Put on God’s whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand*

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up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil... We have already been provided full, sufficient armor that protects and allows us all the weapons we have need of to prevent harm as well as fight off attacks of every kind!

II. Joy- A part of the New Covenant (***) See Definitions#1)

Scriptures that relate to Joy:

1. John 10:10, Prov 17:22
2. Read pg 33&34 The Force of Joy -Jerry Savelle.
3. **Ne 8:10 *The Joy of the Lord is our strength* Joy promotes strength, it kicks in the endorphins in our bodies, to promote healing and wellness, it has an appealing or drawing effect on others.
4. **Isaiah 35:19 *And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing, and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*
The joy of salvation is enough in itself, but joined with other believers that joy is increased, today and in the day in which we return with Him. Today, if we came to the world with singing, most of those would either think we were “nuts” or would want the joy that we have and be changed because of what they see in us. Well, He has come to us with singing IN the person of JESUS the CHRIST! Hallelujah!
5. **Isaiah 61: 3 *To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness....* We have been appointed and anointed with a message of joy to the nations!
4. Luke 1:44 *babe leaped in the womb for joy.* Even the unborn child has a sense of goodness and salvation, a sense of truth and light!
5. **Luke 15:7 *joy shall be in heaven over one...* Part of the celebration in Heaven is that of lost souls receiving the rebirth. One person who repents, who comes unto the reconciliation of the Father through Christ, it a much celebrated person in heaven.
6. **John 16:24 *but now ask and keep on asking and you will receive, so that your joy may be full...* The Lord wants us to ask, and He wants to give us good things.
7. **John 17:13 *And now I am coming to you; I say these things while I am still in the world, so that My joy may be made full and complete and perfected in them [that they may experience my delight fulfilled in them, that My enjoyment may be perfected in their own souls, that they may have My gladness within them, filling their hearts.* Jesus on our behalf has petitioned the Father in Heaven so that we can experience His joy!
8. ***Romans 15:13 says *May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in believing [through the experience of your faith] that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound and be overflowing (bubbling over) with hope.* Hope in Christ and joy in living a life united with Him will cause us to be bubbling over with joy to others.
9. *** Hebrews 12:2 *He for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.* Jesus was able to face the cross knowing what joy he would experience when it was finished. What power the force of joy can have in our lives no matter what we are facing!

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Joy is a force that is unmatched in the Kingdom of God! Read Pg 13, 14, 15, 125, 157

Joyce Meyer Enjoying Where You Are While You Are ...

1. Directly linked with Salvation, redemption, reconciliation, security, peace.
2. Directly linked with Jesus.
3. Joy is an eternal quality, and joins the soul with the spirit in a godly way.
4. Joy is a quality of all these attributes of the Spirit indwelling us: Faith, Hope, and Love.

III. The partnership of Fellowship and Joy:

This is God's will for us, that we might have and enjoy abundantly, joyous and satisfying life. Calm delight to extreme hilarity, to hallowed reverence and appreciation. Joy covers a wide range of emotions. God has given us our emotions and they are to be co-laborers with our spirit to perfect joy on the inside of us. This is having and possessing the "Joy of the Lord". Romans 14:17 For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Calm delight is a mixture of peace and joy (peace-wholeness, soundness and completeness...Joy-fullness of enjoyment and delight in the Lord. An explanatory note in the Vines Expository Dictionary says: Joy is associated with life. Webster's Joy: Great pleasure or happiness. Delight: The expression or display of being filled with joy: To enjoy TO BE ENGRAFTED WITH JOY The verb enjoy: To rejoice, to derive pleasure from: to relish, to have the benefit or use of as in the expression: Enjoys good living. To Relish: To enjoy. Relish on a hot dog makes it taste better. People can eat a hot dog without relish, but, it adds to the flavor. Relish could be catsup, mustard, pickle relish, onions, cheese, etc... How do you relish life?

Fellowship and Joy Definitions Page

Definitions:

- A. **Fellowship**: Companionship; society; consort; mutual association of persons on equal and friendly terms. Association; partnership; joint interest; company; a state of being together; Communion. Fellowship is a verb word, and requires action to stay true to its meaning.
- B. **Association**: Association is also an action word. In order for one to be in association with someone else, there must be regular relationship and partnership with that person. This word is also a noun that denotes a gathering of people who agree on something, creating an organization.
- C. **Assembling**: A complete collection, meeting for worship, to collect upon the same place, gathering together.
- D. **Dwell**: 3427 Hebrew word, yashab: To sit down, to remain, to settle, to marry, to abide, to continue, to inhabit. This scripture indicates the power and the spiritual law of reciprocal in that great benefits come in unity, focus, and the effort made to move as "one" together. There is an anointing when brethren stay in the unity that Jesus has bought for us, by His blood.
- E. **Ointment**: 8081 Hebrew word Shemen, to shine, to be oily, to become fat (wax) grease, especially from the olive-often perfumed (joy) richness, anointing, fruitful, oiled, ointment, olive + pine. This scripture also indicates that there is fruitful abundance of anointing in the "dwelling" of the brethren in unity.

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F. **Joy:** *fullness of enjoyment and delight in the Lord. An explanatory note in the Vines Expository Dictionary says: Joy is associated with life. Webster's Joy: Great pleasure or happiness. Delight: The expression or display of being filled with joy: To enjoy TO BE ENGRAFTED WITH JOY The verb enjoy: To rejoice, to derive pleasure from: to relish, to have the benefit or use of as in the expression: Enjoys good living.*

H. **Relish:** *To enjoy. Relish on a hot dog makes it taste better. People can eat a hot dog without relish, but, it adds to the flavor. Relish could be catsup, mustard, pickle relish, onions, cheese, etc... How do you relish life?*

I. *Delight: the expression or display of being filled with joy: to enjoy TO BE ENGRAFTED WITH JOY The verb enjoy: To rejoice, to derive pleasure from: To relish, to have the benefit or use of as in the expression: Enjoys good living.*

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