

FBTN 9 Fruits of the Spirit - Joy

(Phil 4:4) *Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!*

What Frustrates you?

Illus: No matter what lane I get into at store, the cashier has to call for a manager override.

No Matter what lane I get into on the Freeway, immediately becomes the Slow Lane.

No matter what Isle of the parking lot I pull into, the closer empty spot is on the the other isle, and taken by the time I get there.

Do Stupid people Frustrate you?

Do Mean people Frustrate you?

Do Selfish people Frustrate you?

Fruit of the Spirit - Joy vs. Frustration

Definition of Joy: *A cheerful, calm delight for God's Will to be perfected in all the circumstances of life.*

(Prov 15:13) *A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.*

JOY is the spontaneous enthusiasm of my spirit when my soul is in fellowship with God.

RECAP:

Being IN the Flesh, & Walking AFTER the Flesh

A believer cannot walk IN the flesh, but can intentionally follow AFTER the flesh.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

If we are IN Christ, we won't be condemned by God. When we walk AFTER the Flesh, we do experience the condemnation of the devil.

There is a BIG difference between the Holy Spirit's Conviction, and the Devil's Condemnation.

Romans 8:5

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:8

*So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. **To please God we must "Walk in the Spirit" by faith.***

Romans 8:9

*But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you...
Our position in Christ, and His position in us.*

Romans 8:10

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

(Gal 5:20-21) (BAD FLESH)

Pretty easy to recognize from a person's behavior

(Gal 5:22-23) (RIGHTEOUS FLESH)

(Gal 3:1) Bewitched by a (GOOD FLESH)

Neither "*Righteous*" nor "*Unrighteous*"

It Is "Self-Righteous" Behavior

Satan knows we are not going to be comfortable under Holy Ghost Conviction from the behaviors of
(Gal 5:19-21)

(2 Cor 11:14-15) So Satan appears as an angel of light
His tactics seem spiritual and good.
But he leads us to walk in our flesh to do good,
rather than reliance upon the Spirit of God.

This is (Good Flesh vs. Righteous Flesh)

(Gal 5:22-23) **The Fruits of the Spirit**

Transforming: Love, Joy, & Peace

Conforming: Longsuffering, Gentleness, & Goodness

Reforming: Faith, Meekness, & Temperance

What is meant by the word "*Fruit*"?

The Natural Outgrowth of what's inside.

On Purpose, God has limited Himself to these 9 ways in which He wants us to respond to all forms of Adversity.

This was His decision.

The Spirit will lead you to respond in one of these 9 ways, or not to respond at all.

These "*Fruits*" are God's 9 actions or reactions to all circumstances in life.

The devil, as an angel of light, mimicking God's true leadings thereby offering us alternative to each of God's 9 fruits.

That gives us 20 choice, with 2 of them as abstaining from responding at all.

The problem with Christianity in our day is that we do not have a dynamic enough walk with God to discern the difference between righteous responses under the influence of the Holy Spirit, & Self-Righteous responses under the influence of the flesh.

Transforming Fruits of the Spirit are:

Love, Joy, & Peace

(Inner being transformation)

(Rom 12:2) Transforming precedes Conforming.
These are Inside Behaviors of man.
These fruits can go undetected.
Before a person can act right outwardly, there
has to be an inward change.
These are responses to adversity

The devil attacks us from the outside to influence the
Inside, Or Inner Man.

Lust of the Flesh to prey on the Mind.
Lust of the Eyes to prey upon the Will.
Pride of Life to prey upon the Emotions.

He uses these outside influences in attempt to destroy
the inside.

God works from the Inside out.
The inner man communicates with God.

The Holy Spirit influences the Inner Man, we yield to
His influence it is always conforms the outer being to
the image of Christ.

Love vs. Self Love

“*Agape*” = the willing sacrificial giving of oneself for
the benefit of others without thought of return.

The Devil’s “Good Flesh” Counterfeit.

Self Love is the willing, or unwilling giving of myself
to benefit others with selfish thoughts of return.

Joy vs. Frustration

One of the most enjoyable fruits of the Spirit, but let
one of the most difficult fruits to yield to.

It is strange to realize and difficult to understand that
when we lack Joy, it is only because we failed to yield
to it.

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countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is
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*JOY is the spontaneous enthusiasm of my spirit when
my soul is in fellowship with God.*

God will allow situations that will try our Faith,
produce some Patience, and generate Joy found only
in the Holy Spirit.

We only grow, when the outer man is wounded by
circumstances in life and we are given opportunities
to yield to the inner man. (*Break the Outer man &
develop the Inner*).

As a result, we become less carnal & more Spirit led.

The more Spirit led we are, the more Christlike we are

The Christ-like we are, the more Holy Spirit Power we experience.

The More Holy Spirit power we experience, the More people we Influence for God's Kingdom.

(Rom 8:28-29) is the Promise that we can Trust God's heart in all circumstances of life.

All Thing: refers to everything, good and bad.

Work together: Produces a result.

For Good: in a way that is advantageous

Love God: willingly give ourself w/o thought of return to God

Called, to His purpose: to be conformed to Christ's image

Foreknew: know in advance

Predestinate: Pre-Plan, or ordain, in advance

Conformed: poured into a mold

Image of His Son: the likeness of Christ

Firstborn: the first in order of birth

Among many brethren: others who become brothers after and as a result of the new birth.

What is this passage saying?

Everything that we experience is used for our good by God, if we give ourselves to be molded into Christ's likeness.

If we can Trust God's heart, then we can submit to the leading of God in all Circumstances.

God knew in advance that He was going to effect this kind of development in our lives.

This method is designed by God to draw others to Christ by our example.

I explained all this to help you understand the dangers of rejecting the Spirit's gift of Joy.

When a difficult circumstance arises, we are actually being blessed by God with an opportunity to experience the fruit of the Sprit: JOY.

We can rejoice, and calmly delight in that circumstance.

HOW? Take a brief moment of meditation on these 2 verses to serve to remind us that it is for our **good & God's glory**.

Also remembering that by yielding to to the fruit of the Sprit, JOY, & rejoicing in this circumstance, we could be leading another person closer to becoming a christian.

REMEMBER: responding to the circumstance with Joy, will wound the outer man (Pride) and allow the Inner man to shine through.

The opposite of Holy Spirit Joy, is the work of the FLESH: REGRET. (Self Pity)

The devil knows we are not going to fall for Regret.

So the Devil stimulates the the flesh of Self Righteousness.

Satan wants us to respond to life's circumstances in our own power.

The Devil has a developed a response to these circumstances that is all too acceptable to most people, believers and non-believers alike.

Frustration: Def: *a feeling of dissatisfaction, often accompanied by anxiety or depression, resulting from unfulfilled needs or unresolved problems.*

A rejection or unhappy refusal of God's working in our circumstances of life.

We are rejecting God's will for us.

As I mentioned before, The Devil has a developed a response to these circumstances that is all too

acceptable to most people, believers and non-believers alike.

Most people, including Christians, do not see Frustration as a work of the flesh.

They pity us, and the sympathy feeds our flesh, but what we are saying is...

"God, I don't want you meddling in my business!"
"You are not treating me right!"

When we ***reject God's will*** for us ***in this circumstance***, we are ***operating in the flesh***, and then we jump back into our habits and addictions.

This has been a new lesson for me.
I have even said to people... *"I understand your frustration."*

That's like saying.. *"I understand your Crack Cocaine Habit"*

BOTH ARE A WORK OF THE FLESH.

No matter how much good we are doing in the flesh, no matter how much we believe our frustration is justified.

Good flesh is still flesh, and when we walk after the flesh we cannot please God, and Satan knows this.

WE JUST GOT PLAYED by the devil!!!

To this end, we must understand God's purpose for adversity:

To wound the Outer man and his pride.

To allow the Inner man, reborn of the Spirit, to shine.

To display our love for God.

To Conform us to be like Christ.

To lead others to salvation in Christ.

God is going to work His will in your life to conform you to the image of Christ.

If we respond in the flesh in difficult circumstances, then we will be forced to continue facing this circumstance over and over again till we allow God to bring about the desired results

ALSO, if we will not yield to Joy, we may suffer more severe circumstances.

God will be faithful to break down our flesh and pride so as to develop His Spirit in us.

We must embrace what God has allowed!

I realize it is easier said than done.

Countless times I have remembered this truth too late to apply it.

You can probably look back and see that this has been your routine in your life also.

Accept it, and it gets better with Joy.

Reject it, and it gets worse with Frustration.

You may not have know WHY you had to go through these things, NOW YOU DO!

Give God the Praise for working in your life!

JOY is the spontaneous enthusiasm of my spirit when my soul is in fellowship with God.

(Prov 15:13) A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

Yield to JOY, knowing is it brings Christ-Likeness, and the conversion of non-believers.

Your Choice.