

The Fruit of the Spirit studies **JOY PEACE**



Key verse: Romans 5:1-2.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.



Big Idea: Living with joy and peace in this life is a reflection to others of our understanding and appreciation of the work of Jesus in reconciling us to God at the cross.

Kick Off

Blaise Pascal wrote: *"All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they tend to this end. The cause of some going to war, and of others avoiding it, is the same desire in both, attended with different views. The will never takes the least step but to this object. This is the motive of every action of every man, even those who hang themselves."*

Do you agree with Pascal? Is it wrong to seek happiness as a human?

STUDY

Read Romans 5:1-11.

Peace and Joy:

1. List the many blessings Paul tells us are ours as a result of being justified in vv1, 2, 9-11.

(Note: *Justified means being declared right by God... think of it as God seeing us, 'just as if we had never sinned'*)

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2. Our world thinks of Peace and Joy in terms of life circumstances and conditions. Discuss from v3-5 how Christian Peace and Joy are radically different.

3. Can you think of examples from Christians you know or have read of who have demonstrated joy in suffering and experienced peace in turmoil?

For some biblical examples look up Nehemiah 8:10, Acts 5:41, Acts 16:25.

4. Some people get offended at the Christian message when they run into problems in life Mark 4:16-17. How does the Word prepare us to face troubles with Joy and Peace?

- John 16:33

- Matthew 5:11-12

5. . What things does the Apostle Peter tell us work against our Joy and Peace as Christians in 1 Peter 2:11?

6. Jesus is the true Spirit filled man. How does the author of Hebrews, in Heb.12:2-3, describe Jesus' joy and encourage us to imitate him?

7. What gives the Apostle John great joy, 2 John 1:4? And how by implication are we to experience joy?

THINK AND APPLY

For us to display the fruit of Joy and Peace in our lives we need to know and trust and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.

Are there areas in your life where you are disobeying Jesus and being robbed of your joy and peace?

Are you able to see suffering and persecution for your faith as reasons for comfort and joy?

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read
James 5:7-11
Romans 2:4**