

Doctrine of Joy

1. A common Hebrew word for “joy” in the *Old Testament* is derived from a word which means to “leap,” or “spin around” with pleasure, rejoicing.
 - *Psalms 30:5 For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*
 - *Job 8:19 Behold, this is the joy of his way, and out of the earth shall others grow.*
2. The Greek word *chara* conveys the idea of gladness. Emphasis is placed upon the cause or occasion of joy such as when the wise men saw the star that would lead them to the Messiah, the proclamation of the gospel, or the pleasure Paul had in the church.
 - *Matthew 2:10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*
 - *Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*
 - *1 Thessalonians 2:20 For ye are our glory and joy.*
3. Several types of joy can be identified such as *natural* joy.
 - When moderate this natural joy is called *gladness*.
 - When raised suddenly to the highest degree of rejoicing this natural joy is called *exultation* or *transport*.
 - When the desires of the heart are tempered by what we actually possess, joy is known as *contentment*.
 - When grand objectives are accomplished natural joy is reflected in *satisfaction*.
 - When opposition is vanished joy is called *triumph*.
 - When joy becomes a part of a person’s normal disposition it is called *cheerfulness*.
4. There is a *moral* joy, which arises from the performance of any good actions. This kind of joy is called “*peace*” or “*serenity of conscience*”, if the action is honorable. When the same emotion of joy is raised high it may be called **glory**.
5. There is a *spiritual* joy which is called the “*fruit of the Spirit*” and “*joy in the faith*”.
 - *Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

- *Philippians 1:25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;*

6. Joy has specific objections. :

- God Himself becomes the object of delight and joy.

Psalms 43:4 Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

- The Promises of the Word of God produce joy.

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

1 Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

- The Gospel of redeeming grace elicits joy.

Psalms 89:15 Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.

- The prosperity of Christ's kingdom enhances joy.

Acts 15:3 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 11:17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

- The anticipated happiness to be found in heaven produces joy.

Psalms 16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. 10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Romans 5:2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

7. Spiritual joy is permanent.

- *John 16:22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.*
- *Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.*
- Spiritual joy is unspeakable.
- *1 Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*