

STUDY GUIDE

Galatians 5:22-25; Nehemiah 8:10; Hebrews 12:1-2

“Living by the Spirit: The Fruit of Joy”

- 1) Who is the person of the Holy Spirit? What are the activities (works) of the Holy Spirit?
- 2) What are the differences between *fun* and *joy*?
- 3) The Bible repeatedly calls us as God’s people to be a joyful people who find our greatest joy in God. Give examples as to how the “joys” in the verses on page 2 in the message could be experienced.
- 4) Discuss how we can live out the statement that, “*joy in God reveals to us that we need to accept not just that which is merry but also that which is misery, and we need learn to do so in such a way that the misery does not eliminate the merry.*”
- 5) How did “*the joy set before him*” affect Jesus when he went to the cross? What are the implications and applications of that same joy that we have in the crucified and risen Christ today?
- 6) Discuss why it is often said that “*the greatest enemy of the Christian faith is Christians themselves.*”
- 7) Faith in Christ and joy in God are intricately and intimately joined together throughout the Word of God. Share examples of when you experienced that relationship in your own life.
- 8) Hebrews 11:33-38 speaks of men and women of faith who endured tremendous depths of pain and struggle and suffering for their faith in God, looking for the promised Savior to come to earth. But they died without seeing it come to pass. How could they persevere? What can we learn from them?
- 9) Reflect on Colossians 1:9-12 and 2 Cor. 6:3-10 - and share and discuss what “*humble character that produces the joyful fruit of unity and service*” should look like in our lives and in our church.
- 10) **FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:** Discuss the implications (personally and for the church) of . . .

Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength. **Nehemiah 8:10**