

Fruit of the Spirit Series

JOY

June 22, 2012

Fruit of the Spirit – JOY (Luke Knight)



What is Joy?

Divine Joy

1. God finds joy in himself and his self-sufficiency

- Ps 50:9-10 , Ps 115:3 , Acts 17: 25 (overflowing abundance)

2. God finds joy within the relationship of the Trinity

- As One, he is full of joy, but as three God finds community. God is a community. Within this community he shares with himself the joy of all things.
- “Perhaps the most important difference between Christianity and all other religions [is] that in Christianity God is not a static thing . . . but a dynamic, pulsating activity, a life, almost a kind of drama. Almost, if you don’t think me irreverent, a kind of dance.” –CS LEWIS

3. God finds joy in creation

- At the end of Genesis chapter one we find God having completed the cosmos, he almost sits back and he calls it all “very good.” (Gen 1:31)
- He’s happy with his work so much so that he appraises it, sees that it’s amazing and is pleased by it!

4. God finds joy in us, in humanity.

- As the pinnacle of creation we are loved and treasured. God pursues us to know him, live with him, enjoy him and enjoy what he has created.
- God is especially pleased when what is lost is found (Prodigal Son).

Christian Joy

Joy because of grace

- The word in the original language is *chara* (*khar-ah’*)
- It has some interesting roots to it, it’s probably best translated “joy because of grace” or the expression of “grace recognized”
- So joy that’s found in a Christian is what comes for the awareness of the grace and goodness of God. It’s a kind of thankfulness.

Joy not matter what

- Because this joy is based on God (constant, unwavering) it isn't circumstantial.
- Because God is constant, and nothing can separate us from him, whatever place or situation we find ourselves in, we can still find joy in God.

Joy as a greeting

- This word for joy in Greek actually morphed a little bit and the first Christians began to use it as a greeting. Paul sings some of his letters like this.
- They would say, "Joy because of grace and peace to you" , "happiness, fulfillment, inexpressible oneness with God because of grace"

Discussion Questions:

- Are we aware of the deep sustaining, unwavering joy that comes from the experience of grace and relationship with the Creator of all things?
- What makes you happy? What brings you good pleasure?
- Do you know someone who seems to be filled with joy?
- Do you remember a time when you were filled with joy because of grace?
- Do you remember a time when you were filled with joy even in the face of something difficult?
- What about God gives you joy?
- Do you find joy in what God finds joy in? Creation, others around you? How so?
- What does joy look like to you? How do you express it?
- What draws you to God? How do you sense or enjoy him?
- How do you plan on enjoying God more?