



JOY FINDS ITS SOURCE IN HOPE.

Galatians 5:22a

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**...*

Romans 15:13

*May the God of hope fill you with all **joy** and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in **hope**.*

John 15:10-11

*If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my **joy** may be in you, and that your **joy** may be full.*

What is joy?

- Is not an impulsive or fluctuating emotion – Mark 4:16-17 *And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, **immediately** receive it with **joy**. ¹⁷ And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, **immediately** they fall away.*

Q: What is joy?

A: “[Joy] is a quality, and not simply an emotion, grounded upon God himself and indeed derived from him.”¹

- Joy finds its root in **hope** – Romans 15:13 *May the God of hope fill you with all **joy** and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in **hope**.*

False foundations for joy

- **Education** – Ecclesiastes 1:17-18 *And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind. ¹⁸ For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.*

- **Relationships** – Ecclesiastes 2:8 *I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the sons of man.*
- **Entertainment** – Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 *And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.¹¹ Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.*
- **Career** – Ecclesiastes 2:20-21 *So I turned about and gave my heart up to **despair** over all the toil of my labors under the sun,²¹ because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.*

Joy flows from

- 1) **Salvation** in Jesus Christ.
- 2) Seeing others **respond** to the Gospel – Luke 15:7 *Just so, I tell you, there will be more **joy** in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*
- 3) **Sanctification**: Becoming more like Jesus Christ.
- 4) Serving others.
- 5) **Suffering** while remaining faithful to Jesus Christ – Hebrews 10:34-35 *For you had compassion on those in prison, and you **joyfully** accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.³⁵ Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.*

¹ S. S. Smalley, "Joy" in D. R. W. Wood, I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer, & D. J. Wiseman eds., *New Bible Dictionary*, 3rd ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996), 615.