

***Vision: Helping People Win In Life*** (on the foundation of a Personal, Growing and Life Changing Relationship with Jesus Christ)



***Mission: Helping People Win In Life*** through environments designed to help them take their next steps in Christian Maturity.

May 31, 2026

### Sermon Notes

## ✦ FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SERIES • WEEK 2 OF 9 ✦ JOY: The Fuel That Keeps You Going When Nothing Else Can!

Pastor Bob Washington

**Icebreaker:** "If joy had a theme song that played every time you walked into a room, what song would it be?"

**2026 Theme Scripture:** John 10:10: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV) — "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

The Apostle Paul described what a Spirit-filled life looks like — and today we focus on the fruit of JOY. Not just our Sunday morning face or our "blessed and highly favored" text messages, but our Tuesday afternoons and Thursday night frustrations. That is where fruit is tested.

*Greek Word: chara (χαρά) — Deep, settled gladness rooted in God's presence and promises, not circumstance-dependent. This is not the same as happiness, which rises and falls with happenings.*

"The joy of the LORD is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10) — not a suggestion, but a d of spiritual vitality.

## Three Life Giving Truths of Joy

### 1. JOY IS J-BASED, NOT C-BASED!

- **John 15:11** — "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."
- "Happiness is h; joy is v. Happiness depends on happenings. Joy depends on Jesus."
- **Philippians 4:4** — "Rejoice in the Lord always" — written by Paul from a Roman prison.
- An anchor doesn't keep the storm away. It keeps the ship from being d away in the storm. Joy is your s anchor.
- **Jesus' Example: Hebrews 12:2** — Jesus endured the cross "for the joy set before Him." He suffered intensely — but saw p the suffering to the salvation on the other side. That is the Jesus-kind of joy.

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### 2. JOY IS A J, NOT A D!

- **John 16:22** — "You have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."
- "Joy is not waiting at the finish line; joy walks w you on the road."
- **James 1:2** — "Count it all joy when you meet trials of various kinds." The trials are on the road — and so is the joy.

- **Psalm 30:5** — “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” You are not s\_\_\_\_\_ in the night forever.
- **Jesus’ Example: Matthew 26:30** — On the night of His betrayal — knowing arrest, torture, and death were hours away — Jesus s\_\_\_\_\_ a hymn with His disciples. That is joy as a journey.

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### 3. JOY IS JUST WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS TO S\_\_\_\_\_!

- **Luke 10:20** — “Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”
- A gloomy church will never w\_\_\_\_\_ a discouraged world. Your joy is an e\_\_\_\_\_ tool.”
- Nobody wants to go inside a gloomy looking restaurant. Light draws people. A joyful believer is a lit window in a dark neighborhood.
- Biblical joy is the most honest r\_\_\_\_\_ to the reality that Jesus got u\_\_\_\_\_ from the grave! We know how the story ends — that’s why we can s\_\_\_\_\_!
- **Jesus’ Example: Luke 10:21** — Jesus “rejoiced in the Holy Spirit” — out loud, p\_\_\_\_\_, declaring praise to the Father. Jesus was not a stone-faced Savior. If the King c\_\_\_\_\_ openly, so can His people.

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***Joy Isn’t Produced – It’s Received!  
 Jesus is Waiting!  
 Open Your Hands and Let His Spirit  
 Give You the Joy that Strengthens You  
 Today!***

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul wrote “Rejoice in the Lord always” from a Roman prison. What is one circumstance in your life right now where you’re tempted to tie your joy to the outcome — and how can you re-anchor it to Jesus instead?
2. James says to “count it all joy” in the middle of trials. Share a time when you found genuine joy on a difficult stretch of the journey. What helped you practice joy in that season?
3. Point 3 says your joy is someone else’s witness. Who in your life needs to see the fruit of joy through you this week, and what would that practically look like in your interactions with them?

## SMALL GROUP NOTES

- I. **Welcome:** Ice Breaker, Light Refreshments (20 min)
- II. **Worship:** Sing 2 Songs and Pray (7 min)
- III. **Word:** Discussion /Overview from preached message & Discussion Questions (43 min)
- IV. **Works & Witness:** What will you do to serve others and/or share Christ with others? How can you partner with your Small Group and/or entire Church? (10 min)
- V. **Win** (Testimony): What next steps have you taken or are taking toward spiritual maturity in Christ Jesus? Connecting, Growing, Serving, Sharing, Worshipping (5 min)
- VI. **Will** (Vision & Prayer): Share the Vision and Mission of CCMS & Pray (ACTS) – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving & Supplication (5 min)