

## Sermon Text Discussion Notes 6/28/2020

Romans 5: 1-11

Gospel Freedom and the Fruit of the Spirit  
Joy

by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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The Fruit of the Spirit is the radiant character of Jesus being produced in us by the Holy Spirit. As we rest in our identity in Christ we are transformed. This includes the emergence and growth in joy. Especially during these trying and uncertain times, we need a source of joy that runs deeper than our circumstances. In Romans 5 the Apostle Paul describes three manners of rejoicing for the believer.

1. Rejoice in hope Joy comes as a result of the Gospel blessings of peace with God, access to grace, and rejoicing in hope. We have the confident expectation in a bright future eternally in Christ.
2. Rejoice in suffering Suffering does not take away Gospel joy. Suffering produces endurance which builds character. Character brings the hope of eternal life as it gives evidence of salvation. Hope does not put us to shame in the final judgment.
3. Rejoice in God We rejoice in the Triune God. The Father is the source of love. His love is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. The Son died for the ungodly. The source of our greatest joy is being restored to God.

### Quotations

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*"We are seeking to reflect the Psalms and the tone of the New Testament in our Sunday Services. There has to be a place for the whole range of emotions on Sundays together. And yet, even in this, the dominant tone will be joyful thankfulness—because of everything we read in this text. We're gospel people. God has rescued us. We have hope. Our eternal future is bright.*

Drew Hunter

### Understanding & Application

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1. The Fruit of the Spirit (being loving, joyful, etc..) is not the result of merely human efforts at changing and managing our behavior and attitudes. How have you experienced personal transformation that you would attribute to the work of the Holy Spirit?
  2. Drew reported that one recent study found that Americans are the unhappiest they've been in 50 years. What are your current challenges in finding and expressing joy?
  3. Biblical hope is a confident expectation in a bright future. How could having hope of eternal life with Christ make an actual, concrete difference for you in your current challenges?
  4. Is there a human relationship (marriage or otherwise) in which you are tempted to try to find your deepest joy? How can you seek your deepest joy in Jesus and thus make yourself more available to give and serve that important person?
  5. How and when do you express joyful thankfulness to the Lord? What have been hindrances to this for you during this time of COVID quarantine?
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