

Divinely Blessed & Restored

DO YOU HAVE FRUIT FILLING? ©

The Lord Has Filled You With the Fruit of the Spirit!

Series II

Submitted by: Rev. Doris B. Ryans

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance, against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23 KJV)

The month continues a series on the Fruit of the Spirit. Over 2000 years ago, we received the greatest expression of love anyone could ever have given – a gift that cost the giver “**everything**” and for the “**receiver**,” it is a gift that will last forever, and ever, and ever! **What was this gift?** The gift of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but shall have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 KJV)*

This gift, as with any gift, requires our acceptance. Once accepted, we are “born again,” not physically, but spiritually, which means we are changed - *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (II Corinthians 5:17 KJV)* and our life will begin to exemplify the Fruit of the Spirit. This month we will look at the fruit of “joy.”

Joy is defined as an emotion of lively pleasure, happiness, arising from present or expected good. A source or cause of gladness or delight. If we're honest with ourselves, many of us have been conditioned to believe joy can be obtained through material things and/or accomplishments. But these things only provide momentary happiness....then life returns to its humdrum existence.

Continued on page 2

Is that because "joy" is an elusive dream? Something only select individuals get to enjoy. No, it is not reserved only for a select few, but it **is** reserved for those who have a relationship with God. Joy enters your life when we choose to have a genuine relationship with God and His son, Jesus. Because, when God's Spirit lives in us, real "joy" is what the Spirit produces in our hearts as we have intimate communion with our Father.

Christ made it clear that he intended that His joy would become his followers joy. His word tells us in John 15:7 - 11: *7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. 9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that **my joy** may be in you and that **your joy** may be complete.* NIV.

To have joy we must be in fellowship with the Father. This means we are spending time in prayer, reading His Word, and worshipping Him. It requires a relationship with God, one that is being nurtured, not placed aside in our busyness. An intimate relationship with God is not an option in a Christian's life, it's a necessity. As Nehemiah said...."The joy of the Lord is my strength."

If you have an intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father, you **will** have true joy in your life. An intimate relationship with God means you have given him the proper place in your life. I heard a minister say once that there is a formula for joy and it's easy to remember because the formula uses the words of the word joy. The formula is as follow:

Jesus first in your life
+**O**thers second
+**Y**ourself last _____
= **JOY**

J=Jesus comes first. The word tells us: "***Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be yours as well.***" (Matthew 6:33) "***When you seek Me with all your heart, you will surely find Me.***" (Jeremiah 29:13) "***Whoever comes to me I will never send away empty.***" (John 6:37) When Jesus is first, all the rest falls into place.

Continued on page 3

O=Others come second in life. To have true joy, you need a servant's heart, one that wants to help others. Finding joy means placing others before you. The word tells us we are to love God above all and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Y=Yourself comes last. This doesn't mean you neglect self. You're not asked to be a martyr and it certainly doesn't mean always saying "yes" when others ask. But if you have the heart of a servant others must come before you.

Commit to living a joyous life. Remember the words of the Psalmist? He says, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." He doesn't say tomorrow is, or yesterday was, he says that today is the day. Joy is an emotional state we should strive to be in continually. That means we should keep joy in our hearts at all times. *You have what it takes...you've been filled with the fruit filling of.....joy!!*

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST?

Our purpose in this article and daily scriptures is to encourage a heart-to-heart relationship with God. If you do not know God in a personal way, we invite you to make the first step today to receive God's love and the salvation that only Jesus Christ can give. Here are five steps you can take to receive salvation:

1. Recognize you are a sinner and need salvation. The Bible tells us "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).
2. Repent of your sins. Sin separates us from God. By confessing your sins and turning from them you are forgiven. The Bible says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).
3. Believe in Jesus. God sent His Son to die so that He could pay for all our sins. The Bible says: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life: (John 3:16).
4. Receive His Salvation. Jesus Christ is a gift you must receive and welcome to live in your heart. He promises: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God: (John 1:12).
5. Confess your belief verbally. The Bible assures "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved: (Rom. 10:9).

You now have been born again! Tell some else your good news and connect yourself with a church home as soon as possible. God Bless and Keep You!

Divinely Blessed & Restored

P.O. Box 31-1405
Detroit, MI 48231
Ph: 313-566-0944
Fx: 313-566-0945

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doris B. Ryans – President
(Executive Director)

Joyce D. Williams – Vice President
Asst. Executive Director

Zenell B. Brown – Secretary
Legal & Grants

Colleen V. Ealy- Treasurer
Site & Program Coordination

Internet Website:

www.divinelyblessedandrestored.org

Jason Coleman – Webmaster



Make sure that you check our website for updates and upcoming events!!