

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM:  
**THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

Devotional: Summer 2020

## INTRODUCTION

---

This summer we are exploring the fruit of the Spirit: how God changes us through his Spirit to make us more like Jesus. Thank you for joining other Redeemer East Siders to grow in the fruit of the Spirit through devotionals, discussions and noonday prayer.

Use this devotional guide to deepen your understanding of the power of God's Spirit. Each day begin with the opening prayer, choose a Scripture passage and quotation to reflect on, and then pray the closing prayer. The worship songs can be listened to throughout the week. When a particular Scripture stands out to you, pause and meditate on it, considering what you learn about God, humanity, and why God is showing this to you today. Pray for the Spirit to work this fruit into your life.

## WEEK 3, JULY 19: JOY

---

### ▶ LISTEN

- [I Smile - Kirk Franklin](#)
- [Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee - Chris Tomlin](#)
- [Joy - Niyoki](#)

### ▶ OPENING PRAYER

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding. Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

### ▶ SCRIPTURE

- [Psalm 103](#)
- [Isaiah 12:1-6, 49:13, 51:11](#)
- [Luke 15:10-32](#)
- [1 Chronicles 16:27](#)
- [Nehemiah 8:10-12ff](#)
- [Romans 5:1-11](#)

### ▶ JOY

- **Definition:** Delight in God for the beauty and worth of who he is.
- **Opposite:** Hopelessness, despair.
- **Counterfeit:** Elation that rests in blessings instead of the Blessor. A wavering, fleeting happiness based on circumstances.

## ▶ REFLECTION QUOTES

It is no audible voice, but it is a ray of glory filling the soul with God as life, love and liberty. It is like the word to Daniel that said, "O man greatly beloved!" or like the word to Mary. The Lord only said her name Mary and filled her soul so she no longer doubted she was his! Oh, how glorious is this manifestation of the Spirit! —William Guthrie

Assurance [of salvation] goes far....It enables you to feel that the great business of life is a settled business, the great debt is a paid debt, the great disease is a healed disease, and the great works a finished work; and all other business, diseases, debts and works are then by comparison small. In this way assurance makes you patient in tribulation, calm under bereavements, unmoved in sorrow, not afraid of evil tidings, in every condition content, for it gives you a fixedness of heart.... —J.C. Ryle

Sometimes our spirits cannot stand in trials. Therefore, sometimes the immediate testimony of the Spirit is necessary. It comes saying, "I am thy salvation!" and our hearts are stirred up and comforted with joy inexpressible. This joy hath degrees. Sometimes it is so clear and strong that we question nothing—other times doubts come in soon. —Richard Sibbes

For there is a joy that is not given to those who do not love you, but only to those who love you for your own sake....This is happiness and there is no other. Those who think that there is another kind of happiness look for joy elsewhere, but theirs is not true joy. Nevertheless their will remains drawn towards some image of the true joy. —St. Augustine

You stir man to take pleasure in praising you, because you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you. —St. Augustine

Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased. —C.S. Lewis

Discovering more joy does not save us from the inevitability of hardship and heartbreak. In fact, we may cry more easily, but we will laugh more easily too. Perhaps we are just more alive. Yet as we discover more joy, we can face suffering in a way that ennobles rather than embitters. We have hardship without becoming hard. We have heartbreaks without being broken. —Desmond Tutu

If you're a Christian, you know that Christianity is supposed to be about joy....I often wrestle with that concept. I have to ask myself, "Why do things affect me so much? Why is my joy not relentless?" Sometimes I wonder, "Do we have that kind of impervious joy?" I'm afraid not. I don't think we understand the nature of this joy. In Romans 8:28-30 Paul tells us that if we follow Christ, our bad things turn out for our good, our good things cannot be lost, and our best things are yet to come. Those are the reasons for our joy. —Timothy Keller

## ▶ CLOSING PRAYER

O Light that never fades, as the light of day now streams through these windows and floods this room, so let me open to Thee the windows of my heart, that all my life may be filled by the radiance of Thy presence. Let no corner of my being be unilluminated by the light of Thy countenance. Let there be nothing within me to darken the brightness of the day. Let the Spirit of Him whose life was the light of men rule within my heart till eventide. Amen.