

The Normal Christian Life 13:
“People of Joy”

Romans 14:17

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“For the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

1 Cor 15:32

**“Let us eat and drink,
for tomorrow we die!”**

**Are we truly living for Kingdom
purposes and priorities?**

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Rom 14:14

“I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.

Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;

for the Kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”

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1 Cor 6:13

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Romans 8:10-11

“And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the **Spirit** is life because of **righteousness**. But if the **Spirit** of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His **Spirit** who dwells in you.”

Romans 5:1-5

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ... and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ... Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the **Holy Spirit** who was given to us.”

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Joy

- Joy is **NOT** about eating and drinking
- Joy IS experienced by **life in the Kingdom**
(*key: Relationships*)
- You'll have joy if you *focus* on **Kingdom priorities** (i.e. Righteousness & Peace)

Joy is always OTHER-focused

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Joy in the Holy Spirit

- Like Joy, the nature of the Holy Spirit is **other-centred**
- Joy is found in **God's Presence** and **Intimacy** (i.e. *through* the **Spirit**; cf. Rom 8:15)
- *If the Holy Spirit truly lives within us, then we **already have all the JOY !!***

“I found in the pocket of the coat ... a single page torn out of a Hebrew prayer book, which contained the main Jewish prayer, SHEMA YISRAEL (Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one God. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.)”

Joy in the Holy Spirit?

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“Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of human freedoms – to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way.”

Viktor E. Frankl

Phil 4:4

“**Rejoice** in the Lord always.
Again I will say, **rejoice!**”

*(words of Apostle Paul, while in prison,
waiting for his own execution)*