

“THE SECRET OF JOY”

Introduction: Galatians 5 _____ of the Spirit

- Love, peace, joy, patience, integrity, self-centered, greatness
- Definition: Joy is the c_____ I feel from knowing and trusting God, regardless of circumstances.

THREE RELATIONAL KILL-JOYS

1. _____.

James 4:1,2 (TEV) “Where do all the fights and quarrels among you come from? They come from your desires...which are constantly fighting within your bodies...”

- By nature we are all _____-centered.

James 3:16 (LB) “Wherever there is jealousy or selfish ambition, there will be disorder and every other kind of evil.”

- The purpose of differences is to _____ not to _____.

2. _____

Hebrews 12:15 (NIV) “Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.”

- Resentment _____ emotional energy.
- Resentment _____ you more than others.

3. _____

Proverbs 12:25 (NIV) “An anxious heart weighs a man down.”

- Fear builds _____ instead of _____.

I John 4:18 (Ph) “Fear always contains some of the torture of feeling guilty. The one who lives in fear has not yet had his love perfected.”

- Fear does three things:
 1. Fear makes me D_____.
 2. Fear makes me D_____.
 3. Fear makes me D_____.

TWO SECRETS OF JOY IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

- The key to the secret of joy is _____.

1. Focus on G _____ rather than G _____

Acts 20:35 (NIV) “There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.”

- _____ is based on giving
- _____ is based on getting.
- Three kinds of love:
 1. “I love you _____.”
 2. “I love you _____.”
 3. “I love you. _____”

II Peter 1:7 (LB) “Learn to put aside your own desires so that you will become patient and godly.... This will make possible the next step, which is for you to enjoy other people and to like them, and finally you will grow to love them deeply.”

2. Focus on H _____ rather than on H _____.

Colossians 3:13 (LB) “Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you so you must forgive others.”

- There is no value in rehearsing _____.

Romans 5:3-4 (Ph) “We can be full of joy here and now, even in our trials and troubles. These very things will give us patient endurance; this in turn will develop a mature character...”

- God builds character in my _____.

CONCLUSION:

Philippians 4:4 (LB) “Always be full of joy in the Lord, I say it again, rejoice!”

- Two reasons I can be joyful in spite of the circumstances.
 1. Because God is _____.

Isaiah 43:2 (TEV) “When you pass through deep waters I will be with you; your troubles will not overwhelm you. When you pass through fire, you will not be burned; the hard trials that come will not hurt you. For I am the Lord your God!”

- The promise “I am with you always” – _____.

2. Because God has _____.

Psalm 50:14 (LB) [God] "I want you to trust Me in your time of trouble, so I can rescue you and you can give Me glory!"

- "The good news of great joy" – _____.