

# JOY



James  
1:2-9

# WEEK 2

Joy is completely independent of good or bad circumstances. It's a supernatural gladness given by God's Spirit that actually seems to show up best during hard times. It's a byproduct of fixing our focus on God's purposes for the events in our life rather than on the circumstances.

**Personal Reflection:** Are you experiencing the joy of life on a regular basis or is your happiness dependent on your circumstances?

## SCRIPTURE ✨

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”



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## ASK ✨

- What do you learn about God and joy in this passage?
- Where do you see Jesus demonstrating this fruit of the Spirit?
- What do you see or learn about yourself?
- What changes (thoughts, beliefs or actions) might God be calling you to make?

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## NOTES ✨

## CULTIVATE

Jesus spoke in Matthew 13 of different types of soil. God wants us to till the soil of our hearts so that we would be receptive to the seed of his Word and bear fruit. Before digging into Scripture, prepare your heart by asking the Holy Spirit to help your heart receive and respond to His Word.

## PLANT

Read the Scripture passage. Feel free to mark up the passage, highlighting key words or phrases.

**MEDITATE & MEMORIZE:**  
Choose a key verse that the Holy Spirit reveals to you and record it below. Commit to memorizing it and spend time this week meditating on it.

## GROW

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the quality of joy in your life. Consider recent examples. Where did you feel like the Spirit was helping you live this out, rather than times when you allowed your natural, sinful nature to take over?

Matthew 3:8 says, "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance." Is God showing you any areas where pruning is necessary so that you can bear more fruit?

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# NURTURE\*

- Joy is a decision we make to trust God's goodness. It's possible to have joy in the midst of trials because we rejoice in the Lord - not our circumstances. Perhaps you have not responded well to trials and circumstances in your life. Maybe you've found yourself complaining, growing short-tempered, and allowing anger to build up in your heart. Confess any failures that the Holy Spirit reveals. Ask God to soften your heart and open your eyes to the reasons you have to rejoice. Keep a joy journal this week. Record the reasons you have to rejoice and the reminders of God's faithfulness that you encounter in your everyday life. Remember that rejoicing is a command. "I will say it again; Rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4)
- Think about a trial you currently are facing. Spend some time in prayer and thank God for the good He is bringing about in your life through that trial. If you know someone else who is struggling, consider reaching out to encourage and support them.

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# HARVEST\*

We find various stories in the Bible illustrating these virtues at work in people's lives. Most importantly, these virtues were perfectly displayed in Jesus' life. Your personal story is also important, and it's a testimony to those around you. Reflect back on the quality of joy in your life and note any changes that the Holy Spirit revealed to you throughout the week. Was anything convicting? Did you make any changes or take any action steps in obedience to the Spirit? How will you be different as a result?

**PERSONAL**\*

**ANSWERED  
PRAYERS**\*

**GROUP**\*

**I'M THANKFUL FOR**\*

**SERMON NOTES**\*