

WATCHMAN CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MOVEMENT
2024 FIRST FRUIT FASTING EXERCISE Jan.22 – Feb 11. 2024
(Day 10)

Theme: JUMPING IN THE JOY OF JUBILEE
Texts: Ps.4:3-8; 32:11; 126:1-6
Topic: JOY FOR THE JUST
Sub-Texts: Neh.8:10; Rom.5:1-2; Gal.5:22; Phil.4:4

Joy is one of the fruit of the Spirit that should blossom in every believer's life. But unfortunately, many believers after the initial encounter at salvation, lose this precious grace; being overwhelmed by carnal challenges. Yet, the joy of the Lord is the strength of the just; and if absent will cause lethargy and fainting (Pro.24:10).

The Philippian church was a generous congregation and were perfused with joy which reflected in the tone of Paul's apostolic letter (Phil.2:17,19; 3:1,3; 4:4,14-19; cp. 4:2).

We shall describe joy and its modality of growth.

Joy was translated from the Greek word **Chara** (pronounced *khar-ah*) and it means cheerfulness i.e. calm delight, gladness. So joy is a lasting state of gladness which is more than an emotional reaction to our circumstances.

It is that gladness that arises from knowing the Lord, abiding in Him and being filled with the Spirit.

It emanates from the spirit man and so superior to happiness that arises from the soul.

It can remain unscathed in the midst of the turbulence of life (Jn.16:24,33; cp. 2 Cor. 11:24-28)

Though the Lord Jesus was a man of sorrows following the recalcitrance of the Jews, yet He manifested joy in His ministry hence the accusation of being too joyful by His distractors (cons. Lk.7:34; 10:21). He equally desired that His disciples enjoy the grace (Jn.16:24, 15:11).

The early church was characterized by joy of the Lord/gladness (Acts 2:46; 13:52).

Joy is a distinguishing mark of the kingdom of God (Zeph.3:17; Lk.2:9-14; Acts 16:25; Rom.14:17; Phil.3:1-3; 4:4; 1Pet.1:8).

The Spirit's production of joy can manifest as:

- (1) *Joy of salvation* (Neh.8:10; Lk.15:7; Acts 8:8)
- (2) *Joy of the Holy Ghost* (Rom.14:17; Acts 13:52)
- (3) *Joy of deliverance* (1Sam.2:1; Acts 12:14-17)
- (4) *Joy of spiritual maturity which increase as we bear more fruit* (Jn.15:11; 2Cor.1:24; 2:3; 7:4; 1Thess.2:19-20; 3:9)
- (5) *Joy of God's presence* (Ps.16:11; Matt.2:10; Lk.1:14; 1Jn.1:4)

This precious fruit can be grown by doing the following:

- (1) *Limit negativity: as heart is kept with all diligence* (Pro.4:23; cp.Rom.8:28)
- (2) *Dedicate self to doing good, helping others* (Heb.10:24)
- (3) *Be intentional in retaining joy via waiting on the Lord* (Isa.40:31; Ps.118:24)
- (4) *Regularly recount the deeds of the Lord and express appreciation or thanksgiving* (Ps.9:1; 103:1-5).

The just must resolve to maintain and grow his joy while he follows the Lord.