

Joy – Pt 3 Our exceeding joy is our brethren.

In our previous study we established that – (1) God is our exceeding joy, (2) we express our joy to God when we a) sing and praise His name, b) give freely and c) obey His word with all our heart. In this study we establish that – (1) the Spirit of God dwells in us, and the fruit of the Spirit is joy, and (2) therefore, we are exceeding joyful in (i) tribulation (ii) the joy of our brethren and (iii) in the presence of His glory!

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. The Spirit of God dwells in us, and the fruit of the Spirit is joy.

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Rom.8: 9) – c.f. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering...faith” – (Gal.5: 22).

Previously we established that God is our exceeding Joy (Ps.43: 4), and now we learn that God the Spirit dwells in each of us, and **He** bears fruit of joy – wow!

2. Therefore, we are exceeding joyful.

i) in tribulation.

“Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation” (2 Cor.7: 4). See Jas.1: 2.

The Holy Spirit is the Comforter and in Paul’s tribulation he says “I am filled with comfort”.

ii) in the joy of our brethren.

“Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all” (2 Cor.7: 13). See also Phil.4: 1, Philemon 1: 20, 1 Thes.2: 20, 1 Thes.3: 9.

iii) in the presence of His glory!

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 1: 24). See 1 Pet.4: 13.

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life

“Kenneth Copeland: Net Worth \$760 Million...operates on a 1,500-acre campus near Fort Worth, TX, equipped with a church, a private airstrip, and a hangar for the ministry’s \$17.5 million jet and other aircraft.” Ref. – <https://www.beliefnet.com/faihts/christianity/8-richest-pastors-in-america.aspx?p=2#f1CUKzf0A4dCwHLG.99>.

Question to think about.

Do church leaders rule their flock to get rich, with a rod, or in love?

Our answer from the scriptures.

Paul visited the churches not to get rich, as he taught us to look “on the things of others” (Phil.2: 4). He taught pastors to rule, not with a rod, but in love (1Cor.4: 21), with care (1Tim.3: 5), “Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are **helpers of your joy** for by faith ye stand” (2Cor 1:24). In his letter to the Philippians Paul speaks of joy in six verses and the reference to his own joy is – “Fulfil ye my joy” (2: 2) when his brethren are “like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind”. Church leaders rule their flock with care, in love and to be “helpers of your joy”. May you be encouraged to have exceeding joy in tribulation, and joy of your brethren – knowing that you will have exceeding joy when you see His face!