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FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT:  
JOY

The fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22,23

▶ FAITH FOCUS

Joy that is part of the fruit of the Spirit comes from knowing and experiencing Jesus' love for us.

Have you ever sung, "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart"? This song tells us joy is much more than a smile on our face.

What is joy?

Joy is feeling glad or happy. Joy is both a natural emotion and a fruit of the Spirit. Both types of joy come from God. He gives us blessings that give us natural joy. God gives us a relationship with Him that gives us spiritual joy.

How is natural joy different from spiritual joy?

Natural joy depends on what happens to us. We're glad when we get gifts or spend time with friends. Natural joy tends to come and go just as good and bad times come and go in our life.

Spiritual joy is based on what never changes—Jesus' love for us. (See *Luke 6:23*.) It begins when we ask Jesus into our heart and life. The Holy Spirit can help us have His joy regardless of whether life seems to be good or bad.

How can others tell if I have God's joy?

Spiritual joy doesn't go away when bad things happen or we don't get our way. The Bible tells us we can always have joy. (See *Philippians 4:4*.) Best of all, our joy will last forever when we go to heaven.

Joy is often most obvious when our circumstances don't make us happy. (See *James 1:2*.) When we can say, "That's okay" and really mean it, people will see the fruit of the Spirit in us.

CASE SUMMARY

FAITH FACT



**Joy:** I will be okay with what I have.

TRUTH VERSE



**Luke 6:23**  
"Leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven."

BIBLE CASE FILE



**The Prodigal Son**  
Luke 15:11-32

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