

## Galatians 5:19-26

There are some characteristics that all Christians should have abundantly flowing in their lives.

These characteristics are:

#1: The proof of One greater than us has taken up residence within our Spiritual Being and...

#2: making us extremely attractive to a world that is ravaged by Satan. It is called the **FRUIT** of the Spirit.

There is a big difference between Fruit and Works

Every relationship needs joy... not just happiness.

## Joy Killers in Relationships

1. **Selfishness** - *"Wherever there is jealousy or selfish ambition, there will be disorder and every other kind of evil."* -James 3:16

Cure- 1 Cor 6:19 (AMP)<sup>19</sup> *Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received [as a Gift] from God? You are not your own*

2. **Resentment**- *"Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives."* -Hebrews 12:15

Cure- Eph 4:32, *"be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

**If we are not forgiving a past wrong (bitterness) we are living in direct disobedience to God's command. Step number one for overcoming bitterness is to admit to God that it is wrong, and to forgive the one that has wronged us**

3. **Fear** - *"The anxious heart weighs a man down."* - Proverbs 12:25

**1. Fear does Three Things to a Relationship: Fear makes us Defensive, Distant, Demanding Even in an abusive rel. (the abuser many times is motivated by fear)**

Cure- 2 Tim 1:7 (KJV) *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, love, sound mind.*

## The Right Perspective Means I...

1. **Focus on Giving rather than Receiving.** - *"There is more happiness in giving than receiving."* -Acts 20:35
2. **Focus on Healing rather than Hurting.** - *"Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you so you must forgive others."* -Colossians 3:13
3. **Focus on God's Power rather than Your Problem.** *"Trust in God at all times; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge."* -Psalm 62:8

## Why I Can Be Joyful In Spite Of Circumstances

1. **Because God is with me.** *"When you pass through...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!"*-Isa 43:2
2. **Because God has a plan for me.** (God) *"I want you to trust me in your times of trouble, so I can rescue you and you can give me glory."* -Psalm 50:15
3. **Because God will Help Me.** *"Why be so gloomy and discouraged? Trust in God! Then I shall praise him for his wondrous help; he will make me smile again."* -Psalm 43:5