

Galatians 5:22-23; Luke 10:17-22
Series – Forward to Maturity
Message – Joy: The Trademark of Heaven
September 27, 2026
Fifth Reformed Church
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“Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity” (Hebrews 6:1a).

Impressions of Jesus

- What do you think Jesus would be like in person?
- John 15:9-11
- Joy was a _____ aspect of Jesus’ character.
- John 10:10

Fake Joy & Genuine Joy

- Genuine Fake Watches
- Lots of people are selling _____, but none of them come anywhere close to the real thing.
- The world tries to convince us that _____ is joy.
- Hebrews 11:25 – “the fleeting pleasures of sin”
- Proverbs 9:17; 20:17
- Joy is a core human _____.
- Joy is _____ based on our circumstances.
- [Joy] is based... on rejoicing in one’s eternal identity in Jesus Christ” (Philip Ryken, Galatians, p.233).
- Luke 10:17

- It seems they were rejoicing in what _____ did, rather than in the reality of the kingdom of God advancing through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 16:34
- When the foundation of our joy is right, we _____ the joy of the Lord.

The Joy of the Lord

- “...the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10).
- Full of joy through the Holy Spirit
- 1 Peter 1:8-9

Reflection Questions

1. Prior to today, would you have thought of Jesus as a person filled with joy?
2. In considering your impressions of Jesus, were you able to identify any assumptions you carry about the kind of person Jesus is? If so, what were those?
3. It seems significant that joy is the only emotion listed in the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. Of all the other emotions a human being might experience, why is this one most characteristic of Jesus?
4. In encouraging God’s people, Nehemiah said, “the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Neh. 8:10). Have you experienced a time or situation in life where a joy given to you by the Holy Spirit became strength for you? Share that experience with the group.
5. What was the most challenging part of this message for you?
6. How is God getting your attention?
7. What might God be saying to you?
8. What is your next faithful step?