



## Fruit Of The Spirit Series — Joy by Sandy Simpson

### Inside this issue:

<i>Fruit Series — Joy</i>	2
<i>Grace Gifts</i>	3
<i>Grace Gifts</i>	4
<i>Bible Study</i>	5
<i>Grace Gifts</i>	6
<i>Fruit Series — Joy</i>	7
<i>Ebb Tide</i>	8

What is joy? Is it laughter, happiness, joking, singing, fishing? It is all these but it is far more. The branches of the tree are these things, but the root is joy in the Lord. Having joy in the Lord doesn't mean we won't feel sad or angry at times. There is a time and a place for everything, a time for joy and a time for sadness. We must sympathize with the pain and suffering of others and share in their ups and downs. But through it all we have an abiding deep sense of peace and hope that comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. This comes out of a worldview that knows that God is in control. Non-believers don't have

joy, they may have temporary happiness, but not deep inner joy. Only the Holy Spirit can give us true and lasting joy. It is, as C. S. Lewis wrote about in his book, our "hope of glory". Joy does not come from things on the outside. People try to get joy by drinking, partying, riches. Some deceived Christians think they can get joy by someone laying hands on them and they get holy laughter. Joy does not come from the outside, but from the inside out. Joy is an attitude of life, a different worldview for those in Christ. When we look at the world, at people, we can see them as God sees them and made them and we are thankful, full of praise.



So joy might be described as a thankful peaceful hope, to delight in the Lord. We worship the Lord when we go through life and all its ups and downs without losing our joy in the Lord.

### Biblical Examples Of Joy

One of the examples in the Bible of the joy of the Lord is the life of David. We often find

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## Grace Gifts Of Servant Leadership by Sandy Simpson

Why were the grace gifts of servant leadership given? Let's make a quick study of Ephesians 4:11-16. to find out.

*It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed*

*back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (NIV)*

### WHAT ARE THE GRACE GIFTS OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP TODAY?

The grace gifts of leadership, or more accurately servant leadership, are listed as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers or pastor-teachers, depending on your interpretation. The gift of foundational Apostleship is no longer our concern as no one today fits the criteria to be a foundational apostle. The teachings of the foundational

## Fruit Of The Spirit Series — Joy *cont.*

David writing psalms of joy to the Lord.

*Ps. 98 A psalm. Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—shout for joy before the LORD, the King. Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.*

David found his joy in the Lord. We can also see David being joyful on many occasions. One in particular stands out.

*2 Sam. 6:13-15 When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.*

You may remember that David was full of joy because the ark was finally coming back to the City of David. It had been delayed because the priests, David and Israel had not followed the commands of God and Uzzah had died in the process. But now that they were obedient to the Lord, David is overjoyed. He is dancing in front of the ark of the covenant with all his might. Michal his wife, Saul's daughter, sees him and despises

him for it. But David's joy is in the Lord. He is not doing it for the benefit of Michal or anyone else in Israel for that matter. His is happy that the blessing of the Lord is coming back to rest on Israel after they have been disobedient. Our joy in the Lord is a very private thing. It is between us and the Lord. But it is also apparent to the world. As a Christian you should be living in a deep state of joy. That does not mean that you are happy all the time, or laughing uncontrollably. The Bible says there is a time for laughter and a time for sorrow. But true joy is something deeper than happiness.

*2 Cor. 8:2 Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.*

Joy is also a deep contentment, inexpressible.

*1 Tim. 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

*1 Pet. 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,*

God is also able to bring you to the ultimate joy, the joy of His presence, if you continue to place your faith in Him.

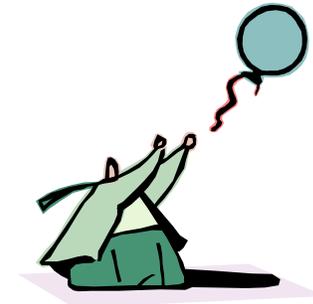
*Jude 1:24 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy--*

### Stories Of Joy

#### Let Your Balloon Go

*A conference at a Presbyterian church in Omaha. People were given helium-filled balloons and told to release them at some point in the service when they felt like expressing the joy in their hearts. Since they were Presbyterians,*

*they weren't free to say "Hallelujah, Praise the Lord." All through the service balloons ascended, but when it was over one-third of the balloons were unreleased. Let your balloon go. (Bruce Larson, Luke, p. 43)*



The moral of this story is to let your balloon go. Let people see the joy of the Lord in your face, in your life. It is a powerful witness. It also can be a form of worship when our joy turns into praise.

#### Ice Cream

*Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good. God is great. Thank You for the food, and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And Liberty and justice for all. Amen!" Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice-cream. Why, I never!" Hearing this, my son burst into tears and*

We are told to live each day to the Lord.

*Psalms 5:11 But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.*

#### Christians

*As a man living around 300 A.D. was anticipating death, he wrote these last words to a friend: "It's a bad*

*world, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people are the Christians—and I am one of them." (Moody Bible Institute's, Today In The Word, June, 1988, p. 18)*

Christians are the only people who truly have joy and peace. They understand that this world is simply a short space in eternity. They are content to suffer and even die for the cause of Christ because they know that they are laying up treasures in heaven. Today we live in an uncertain world. There is little space for joy. But as Christians, though we mourn with those who mourn and suffer trials and persecution, we have a deep inner joy that gives us strength to carry on. And often when we give a little joy, we get a little also.

#### \$50.

*A young pastor who had little money was given \$50. By a churchgoer after church as people were filing past to shake his hand at the door. The churchgoer told the pastor he should use it to take his wife out to a nice restaurant. As he was thinking about the nice time they would have the next person in line came to shake his hand. The pastor knew this person was in great financial need. The Lord prompted him to give that \$50. In turn to the needy person, the next person in line. During that week the Lord continued to burden people to give the pastors gifts of money, and each time the Lord also led the pastor to give that money away again. This happened seven times. On the eighth time the Lord let the pastor keep the \$50. He was given and take his wife out for a nice dinner.*

## Grace Gifts Of Servant Leadership *cont.*

Apostles and prophets (Eph. 2:20) are what the Church is built upon, Christ being the chief Cornerstone and Foundation (1 Cor. 3:10-11). The Apostles were those who saw the Lord while He was on earth before he ascended into heaven (1 Cor. 9:1) and the Lord did true signs, wonders and miracles through them to authenticate their ministries (2 Cor. 12:12). They wrote Scriptures (Matthew, John, Peter, Paul, etc.). They were persecuted and all but one (John) were martyred for the Faith (1 Cor. 4:9 and the Pre Nicene Fathers writings). Finally, Paul said that he was the last, in sequence, of the original foundational Apostles (1 Cor. 15:7-8). We are to use the Word of God, through Jesus Christ, taught to us by the Apostles and prophets, as the basis for our Christian life (2 Peter 3:2, Jude 17).

There is no one today who can meet the biblical criteria to be a foundational Apostle. But there are "apostles" in the Church today, "sent out" ones, messengers, mainly church planting missionaries, but they are not foundational to the Church.

The gift of prophecy is also somewhat different today. There are no longer any "foundational" prophets (Eph. 2:20)—those who wrote Scripture (Samuel, Daniel, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, etc.)—who were often martyred for the Faith (Luke 11:47-48, Rev. 18:24 though some may yet be killed in our day)—and upon whom the Church has its foundation (2 Pet. 3:2), in Christ the Foundation and Cornerstone (1 Pet. 2:6). There are prophets today. But they are also to be held up to the same standards as any biblical prophet. What they prophesy must be biblical and

what they predict must come true (Deut. 13:1-3, 18:20). Otherwise they are to be considered false prophets and the Church should not listen to them (Jer. 23:16, Matt. 7:15, 2 Pet. 2:1 1 John 4:1). This criteria also applies to any of the grace gifts. If evangelists are preaching a false gospel (Gal. 1:9), if pastors and teachers are not teaching sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:3, Titus 1:9, 2:1), they are all to be regarded as heretics and rejected after a few admonitions if they do not repent (Titus 3:10).

Today the main role of a prophet is to exegete the written Word through which Jesus Christ speaks (Heb. 1:1-2) to instruct and edify the Church (1 Cor. 14:31) He does not rely on his own interpretations (2 Pet. 1:20). The Holy Spirit speaks through the living written Word (Heb. 4:12), which we are not to go beyond (1 Cor. 4:6), and out of that comes the guidance of the Lord for the Church. As a prophet elaborates upon the Word, prophecy for the church today often comes forth. The Lord can and still does speak through dreams and visions (Acts 2:17) but dreams and visions must be tested (1 Thes. 5:21) by the Scripture (2 Tim. 3:15-16) which is our highest authority, as the Holy Spirit breathed the words through men—the very Word of God. I would also add that you can be sure that those who give themselves the title of foundational apostles or prophets today, tooting their own horn loudly in the public arena, are false apostles (2 Cor. 11:13) and false prophets (Mark 13:22).

The roles of evangelist, pastor and teacher continue today as they did in the first century.

### WHY WERE THE GRACE GIFTS GIVEN?

Now that we have established who modern day apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers are, let's move on to the main reason why these grace gifts of servant leadership were given. Let's step through the passage above.

#### *... to prepare God's people for works of service ...*

First, the purpose of the grace gifts of servant leadership is to prepare God's people for works of service. If a person is not a servant himself, he will not know how to train others to be servants. Servants serve, they are not there to get others to serve them. We serve God first, then we serve others. False Third Wave teachers are haughty, self-absorbed, self-proclaimed leaders who claim gifts from God yet use them to get themselves a title and lord it over men. They have no idea how to be servants themselves, therefore they cannot prepare anyone for works of service in the body of Christ, or to preach the Gospel to the world. True apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers use their grace gift to serve in humility.

#### *... so that the body of Christ may be built up ...*

This is not talking about numbers, church size, "salvation" statistics. It is talking about the spiritual body of Christ being built into a house.

*Eph. 2:19* Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. **In him the whole building is joined**

***together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.***

This passage is talking about the same building, the Church. It is a spiritual building, not a physical temple. The Holy Spirit now dwells in the temple of the individual spirit of the true believer, and in the body of Christ as a whole. As leaders, we are not to be concerned as much with quantity as with quality. We care what people believe, that they are believing the right thing, and that they walk in that belief. The reason for the grace gifts is not to build mega-churches but to build upon the foundation of Christ taught by the Apostles and prophets. This means that those who have the grace gifts of servant leadership will be teaching sound doctrine as a basis for true unity.

*Titus 1:9* ***He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.***

*Titus 2:1* ***You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.***

*... until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God ...*

So then, "unity" is not referring to ecumenical unity. It is not talking about interfaith dialog. It is not even referencing the unity we already share in the Holy Spirit by virtue of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We already have that as the body of Christ. So what kind of unity is this referencing? It is talking about unity in doctrine, unity in the knowledge of Jesus Christ! The whole purpose of the gifts it to bring about unity in the

## Grace Gifts Of Servant Leadership *cont.*

core doctrines of the Faith, in the knowledge of God. That unity can be broken by heretics, the divisive ones. This is why we are to reject divisive heretics because they cause disunity in the body of Christ.

*Titus 3:10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him.*

The word for "divisive" in Greek is "hairetikos" from which we get the word "heretic". A heretic is a person who teaches against the core doctrines of the Faith.

*2 Peter 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.*

*Romans 16:17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.*

Heresy causes divisions over the core doctrines, and puts obstacles in the way of people becoming mature in the Faith.

*... and become mature ...*

How can someone with the grace gifts teach someone else to be mature if they themselves are not? What does becoming mature mean? It means growing from an infant to an adult spiritually. It means going from milk to solid food. It means growing in wisdom and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

*Hebrews 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to*

*maturity ...*

*Colossians 1:10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,*

*Heb. 5:13-14 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

Notice that those who are mature eat solid food, and that solid food trains them to distinguish good from evil. Infants cannot tell the difference. That's why many infant Christians can be so easily led astray by heretics. It is of vital importance for those in servant leadership to prepare the body of Christ to eat solid food so that they can stand against false teaching, false prophecy and false "anointings".

*... attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ ...*

Can any Christian be exactly like Christ? Certainly that is our goal. But while we are here on earth we still have our old sin nature in the flesh and mind, and the temptations of the enemy to contend with. Jesus Christ was in the same situation as we are, but never sinned. We will never be able to make that claim. Fortunately, as we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). God the Father then no longer sees our unrighteousness, but sees the righteousness of His Son through the blood He shed for us. However, that doesn't

mean we don't strive for maturity in Christ, to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. To do that we must be crucified with Christ daily.

*Galatians 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*

*Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

*Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.*

We no longer live for the desires of the flesh, but we "live by faith in the Son of God". The perfect measure of the fullness of Christ will have its ultimate fulfillment when we are resurrected to eternal life--but there is also a fullness, an abundant life to be experienced now as we are crucified with Christ and follow Him.

*John 10:10b I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

*Eph. 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

We are saved by grace, and it is also the power of the Holy Spirit working in us Who can bring us to the fullness of Christ. We cannot do that on our own. What we must do is to submit to the Spirit, study and obey the Word, stay in sound doctrine.

*... Then we will no longer be infants ...*

Infants cannot swim in a rough sea. They will drown. Mature adults know how to swim and the techniques of survival. They have read the materials and know how to use them. Infants have little understanding and so they can be engulfed by the seas of doctrinal confusion. Those with the grace gifts are to bring infants to maturity by teaching them sound doctrine and giving them the tools to survive on the oceans of life. This is the **MAIN REASON FOR THE GRACE GIFTS!**

*... tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching ...*

The winds of false teaching today are greater than ever before in the history of the Church. Many "Christians" have abandoned the truth for teachers that tell lots of stories with little or no redeeming spiritual value.

*2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

They are false leaders, and though a few of them may even have been given true spiritual grace gifts in the past, they are now using them for greedy gain and to become famous. Their followers no longer have a love of the truth, and are immature believers, if they are believers at all. Those who are true leaders in the body of Christ will prevent Christians from being tossed about by every wind of doctrine, by being watchmen. A shepherd not only feeds the flock, but also guards it from wolves.

## Bible Study *by Juanita Simpson*

### The Parables of Jesus - Part 4 The Sower Luke 8:1-15 (also Matt. 13:1-23 & Mark 4:1-20)

As mentioned in the last issue, it is always important to check the context of a parable or teaching to rightly evaluate it. Where did it happen and who were there? **Luke 4:1-4** Jesus was traveling from village to village proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. Who were with Him as He traveled? There were the 12 disciples and some women who supported Him. Around them gathered a large crowd. Not all who gathered were Jesus' followers. To this divided audience Jesus told the parable of the sower which might be better called "The Parable of the Hearers" because it is about the soil or hearers where the seed was sown.

Let's first look at the elements of the story. Jesus is speaking in an agricultural area so the listeners could easily understand this familiar scene. There was a farmer. He was sowing seed in his field. The seed fell on 4 different kinds of soil. Some fell on the path where it was trampled on and the birds ate it up. Some fell on very shallow soil on top of rock. When it came up the plants withered because there was not enough moisture for them in the shallow dirt. Some seed fell among thorns. The thorns or weeds grew up with the seed and choked the plants. Other seed fell on good soil where it came up and produced a crop. Jesus closed His story by saying: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Was there anyone there without ears? Can we have ears and yet not choose to hear what is said?

In Matthew we read that the disciples had some questions at

this point. Their first question was: "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" **Matt. 13:10** Jesus answered in **Matt. 13:11-17**. Those who closed their hearts to Him would be always "hearing but not understanding" and "seeing but never perceiving". Many people today hear the Bible but don't understand because they choose to give it a different meaning. Others see but never actually perceive the truths and principles behind God's words. Jesus used parables because they illustrated His teaching. With them He challenged His listeners to make a decision. Jesus wanted His hearers to become genuine disciples by putting His message into practice. The people heard Jesus' parables, but many were unwilling to repent and follow what He taught.

The disciples' second question was: "What does this parable mean?" **Luke 8:9** It was a story of familiar things, but they knew it had a deeper meaning because Jesus always used parables to give understanding of spiritual truth. Jesus answered that through His parable He would give His followers "knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God". **Luke 8:10** At the same time it would hide the true meaning from those who refused to believe and trust Jesus. Then He went on to explain the parable to His true followers. **Luke 8:11-15** He explained that the seed represents the Word of God. Why did Jesus use seed as an illustration of God's Word? What are the properties of seed? It is living and can produce life. The Bible is the living Word of God and can produce life in those who truly believe.

Although God's Word has the power to produce life, many

times it does not. Why? It is because like the seed it falls into different kinds of soil. The soil, or dirt represents the hearts of people. Notice Jesus said, "Those along the path...those on the rock...those who hear but are choked...those with noble and good heart." He is talking about different levels of receptivity in people's hearts.

The first place the seed falls is on the path or road. What is the path like? It's hard - like people's hearts - stubborn and resisting. What happens to the seed that falls there? **Luke 8:5** Instead of being treated with respect and received into the heart, it is walked on. There is a great danger in hardening our hearts like this to God's Word. **Heb. 3:8,15; 4:7** Remember that this is what Pharaoh did and God ruined the great country of Egypt because Pharaoh refused to accept what God said through Moses. Some of the seed may not be trampled into the dirt. But what happens to it? **Luke 8:12** Because it sits on the surface unaccepted by the soil, it is eaten by birds. Who do the birds represent in a person's life? They are an illustration of the devil who snatches away the truth from the heart so that the person will not believe and be saved. So even though they hear God's Word it cannot change their lives because they do not accept it with faith and obedience.

Some of the seed falls on shallow ground on top of rock. What are the conditions of that seed? **Matt. 13:5-6** tells us that there was not much soil on top of the rock. The plants sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow and warm, but when the sun came up they quickly withered and were burned by the sun. What was the problem with these plants? They could

not grow deep roots and did not have enough moisture. It seems that these people were Christians because it says that they received God's Word with joy. **Luke 8:13** The problem is that they do not grow roots. How do we grow deep and strong roots? We grow through regular Bible Study, prayer, obedience, putting God first before everything else, and being faithful in trials. So these young Christians "fall away" because of testing, trouble and persecution. Their roots in the Lord and His Word are not deep enough to carry them through the hard things they face. This is why it is important to disciple immature Christians to help them grow deep roots.

Some of the seed falls into thorny ground that has weeds growing in it. What happens to that seed? The weeds take up all the nourishment from the ground, suck up all the water, and crowd out the sunshine from the good plants. What happens to the plants trying to grow in this condition? **Luke 8:7** They are choked and do not mature. What do the choking thorns represent? **Luke 8:14** Jesus says they represent life's worries, riches and pleasures. Our desires for money and pleasure may take up all our strength and time. When things go badly we may be consumed with fears and worries. What happens in our Christians lives when we spend all our energies on these things? We don't ever mature, and are unfruitful - unable to produce anything of value for the kingdom of God. We have to ruthlessly dig out the weeds and begin to nourish the good seed, giving it space to grow well. We have to give space to God in our lives, or our Christianity becomes weak and sickly, and may die. Are our lives so filled with TV, gossiping or

## Grace Gifts Of Servant Leadership *end*

*Ezekiel 33:6* **But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.**

*Matthew 7:15* **Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.**

*Acts 20:29* **For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.**

**... and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming ...**

Here we find that those who teach false doctrine are also those who scheme. Their cunning and crafty ways show that they have another spirit, because Satan is the father of lies, not the Holy Spirit. Therefore they are often after people's money, a following, fame, and power over people. They teach the things that people most want to hear because they know they will reap the rewards of fame and fortune. They claim to be sheep, but they are wolves who eat sheep for breakfast. It is these very schemers that those with grace gifts must steer people away from. The Apostles and even the prophets of the Old Testament did that by naming names. We can do no less.

**... Instead, speaking the truth in love ...**

Now we move on to how to accomplish bringing Christians to maturity and unity in the Faith once for all delivered to the Saints. We must speak the truth. We must love people. We must speak the truth in love. The most loving thing you can

do for a non-Christian is to ultimately preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them. The most loving thing you can do for a Christian is to teach him the truth so he can grow. The most loving thing you can do for a deceived Christian is to show him the truth and warn him away from false teachers. The most loving thing you can do for a deceiver is to rebuke him sharply, once or twice, then if he refuses to repent (which he almost always does) reject him--turn him over to Satan for the destruction of his body so that his spirit may have the opportunity to be saved (1 Cor. 5:5, 1 Tim. 1:20). If he repents, then accept him back in the body. If he does not, warn others away from him, don't let him near the flock and continue to pray for his salvation. But do everything out of love. I love how Jude described our duty:

*Jude 20-25* **But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.**

**... we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ ...**

We are to grow up, mature. We are to grow up to be like Jesus Christ. He is our Head. We are not the Head, He is the Head. We are the body and must continue to grow spiritually. It is

the responsibility of those with servant leadership grace gifts to be sure Christians are growing into the likeness of Christ, and that can only be done through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God and the correct application of the grace gifts.

**... From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament ...**

We are one body in the Faith. A body cannot live without the Head, but it also cannot function properly without a thumb, an eyeball, a leg, etc. We are joined together not my some kind of ecumenical or interfaith unity, but by the Holy Spirit. That unity is then strengthened and brought to maturity by the unity we have because of our common belief in and obedience to the commands of God in His Word.

**... grows and builds itself up in love ...**

As we grow in the unity of the essentials of the Faith, we will grow in love. As we become mature, stay away from false teachers, reach out in love to those who are falling -- we build ourselves up in love. Love is more than saying you love someone or something. It is action. Love is not afraid of being persecuted or hurt for the sake of the truth. Love is not the sycophantic romantic notion of love we see and hear so much about these days, even in the churches. Love is born of sacrifice, even to the point of death. Are Christian leaders willing to suffer persecution for their stand for the truth? If not, then the body of Christ cannot be built up in love.

**... as each part does its work.**

The main problem today in "Christendom" is that each part

**Those who love the Lord obey His commands!**

is no longer doing its work. Many "Christians" have been convinced that their main goal in life is—to do spiritual warfare in the heavenlies—to bind territorial spirits—to spend time on the carpets of churches laughing and acting like animals—to be "drunk in the spirit"—to make a big Pharisical show of their monetary giving—to travel to where the newest Christian show is being put on to get another "anointing" that doesn't exist—to pretend to worship God when they are singing with arms uplifted in churches while they live like the devil during the week at home—to forge ecumenical ties with everyone who says they "believe in Jesus", no matter how bizarre their theology or how weird they act—to build mega churches that spend all their time thinking up programs and none of their time preaching the gospel—to be afraid to support discernment ministries while supporting all kinds of other unbiblical mission ventures ... these are the signs of leadership in churches that have forgotten their role to bring Christians to maturity and get them away from false teaching. They have lost **THE MAIN REASON FOR THE GRACE GIFTS!**

It is my prayer that more Christian leaders will rediscover the reason they have been given grace gifts and use them in accordance with the will of God laid out in the written Word of God. Those who love the Lord obey His commands!

## Fruit Of The Spirit Series — Joy *end*

We can share the joy that the Lord gives us if we in turn give it away. We have to remember that we have the joy of knowing that someday there will be peace when we are with the Lord, an eternity of peace and joy. That is our ultimate place of joy and we want as many as possible to share that joy with us.

### Jesus, Man of Joy

While Jesus was a "Man of Sorrows," Luke also paints a scene where Jesus "rejoiced very greatly in the Spirit" (Luke 10:21) - which implies more than just smiling. The occasion for this joyful outburst was the return of the 70 from their successful mission. They had been given spiritual authority over all the powers of the enemy and had liberated many from the hold of the enemy. There was good reason to celebrate. But Jesus cautions them, "Do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (10:20). No matter how much power they exercised in their ministry, the ultimate source of their joy was to be rooted in the fact that their names were written in heaven. Ministry is temporary. Life in heaven is permanent. Then Jesus joyfully thanked the Father for opening the hearts of the disciples to see this and to enter into the fellowship of the Father and the Son (10:21-24). ... On the eve of his execution, Jesus told his disciples that all he had

revealed to them was so that "my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full"

John 15:10-11 *If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

*They should abide in his love as he always abides in the love of the Father*

John 17:13 *"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.*

*They should be one as he and the Father are one. Here again joy is found in our relationship to the Son, and through the Son to the Father. Jesus, the Man of Sorrows, was also the Man of Joy. He obeyed the will of the Father and endured the cross by focusing on the joy set before him—the joy of unshakable love relationships in the heavenly Jerusalem.*

Heb. 12:2 *2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Heb. 12:22-23 *But you have come to*

*Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.*

### Finding Lost Joy

Many years ago, a little boy was given a gift beyond price: his dead grandfather's gold pocket watch. How he treasured it! But one day, while playing at his father's ice plant, he lost the watch in all the ice and sawdust. He searched and scratched, and even became very upset, but no watch. Then he suddenly realized what to do. He stopped running around and became very still. In the silence, he heard the watch ticking. God has given each of us a priceless gift of joy in Jesus. How easy it is to lose our joy in the running around of life. Yet it is always there to find, if we will just pause and listen to the still small voice of the Spirit. (Submitted by Steve Morrison, Bremerton, Washington.)

One way to bring joy back is to meditate on the Word of God. Let Him speak words of wisdom into your life. Read the Psalms when you are hurting or sad. Remember that the joy of the Lord is pleasing to God and approved by men.

Rom. 14:17-18 *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and*

*drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.*

### **Conclusion**

Ps. 126 *A song of ascents. When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negev. Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.*

One of the great joys in the Lord is sowing the seeds of the gospel of Jesus Christ. When you see the tears of repentance on the faces of those who have placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, you come to know the meaning of a joy that is "sown in tears". When we return to our Creator, it is my hope that it will be with the "sheaves" of many lives who have been saved because we carried the seed. Someday those who have been faithful witnesses for Christ will return with songs of joy.

## Bible Study *end*

trying to get more money, that we have little or no space for God?

Some seed falls on good soil. Jesus begins this verse with "but". **Luke 8:15** There is something better for us. How are those who are good soil described? They have a noble and good heart. Is it easy to produce a good crop or be

fruitful in following God's Word? No. Jesus said that these with good hearts "hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop". So what do we need to do in order to be this kind of fruitful soil? We must learn to retain or hold onto God's Word, to meditate on it, to do it (like the wise builder in **Matt. 7:24-25**), to

patiently spread it to others, to persevere through hard times, and to faithfully do the will of God in our lives. We must seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. **Matt. 6:33** When we go through trials it is a chance for us to develop these characteristics of the noble and good heart. First we need to give our lives completely to Christ,

and then develop this worthy heart as He helps and transforms us.

This parable begins with the sowing of the seed, but ends with the harvest. Finally there is a great harvest from the life of the one with a good heart where God's Word has been sown.

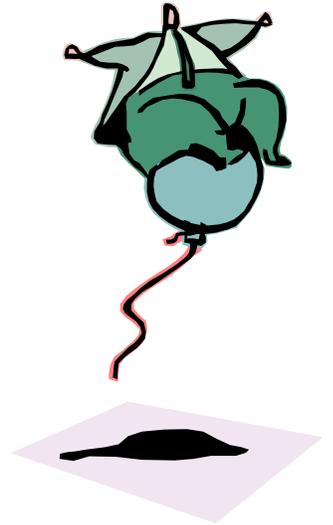


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## *Ebb Tide* by Sandy Simpson

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*Missionary Sandy Simpson is an evangelist and editor of Pacific Waves Newsletter.*

Benny Hinn was examined again in 12/02 by Dateline NBC. They showed his unethical fundraising practices as well as his false claims of healing. Hinn then “answered” the Dateline program on the “Praise The Lord” program on TBN. His answers showed that he is

completely unrepentant and made him look even worse than what the Dateline program revealed. Hinn, at one point, told the camera operator to come close to his face and he proclaimed “Look at my eyes ... I never lie.” This was another lie in that he is a proven false prophet many times over, has lied about healings and dead raisings in the past, has lied about giving up Word-Faith doctrinal teachings, and has lied about raising funds for projects he never completed. Hinn’s omissions are just as bad as his commissions of lying. He didn’t deal with the Dateline proof that he stays in hotels all over the world that cost upwards of \$1000. per night. He didn’t explain his continued use of

unverified healing stories to bolster his image. He didn’t tell people what his salary is, which is likely to be upwards of \$1.4 million per year. He didn’t address why he needs a \$3 million dollar home with a huge parking garage.

Benny Hinn is a heretic and true Christians must avoid him and any organization that is associated with him. We must not allow wolves like Hinn to tarnish the witness of true believers.

