

The Fruit of the Spirit

“Joy”

Nehemiah 8

July 13, 2025

Sermon Points:

1. The Context of Joy (Nehemiah 8:1-6).

- A People Restored:
 - Israelites return from exile to a broken Jerusalem.
 - Ezra reads the Law, and the people respond with worship (v.5-6).
- Conviction Leads to Repentance:
 - Hearing God’s Word exposes their sin, bringing tears (v.9).

2. The Command to Rejoice (Nehemiah 8:9-12).

- "Do Not Grieve" (v.9):
 - Repentance is necessary, but God’s grace calls for joy.
- "The Joy of the Lord is Your Strength" (v.10):
 - True joy is rooted in God’s redemption, not circumstances.
 - Shared celebration: "Eat, drink, and share with those in need" (v.10).

3. The Nature of Biblical Joy.

- Not Happiness (Emotion-Based):
 - Happiness depends on situations; joy transcends them.
- A Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22):
 - Sustained by abiding in Christ, not external conditions.

4. Joy in Action (Nehemiah 8:17-18).

- Obedience and Celebration:
 - The people obey the Feast of Booths, rejoicing in God’s faithfulness.
- A Kairos Moment:
 - Joy arises when we recognize God’s work in our lives.

5. Closing Challenge.

- Reflect: "Is my joy dependent on God or my circumstances?"
- Respond:
 - Surrender anxieties to Christ (Philippians 4:6-7).
 - Choose joy by fixing your eyes on God’s promises.

Personal Notes
