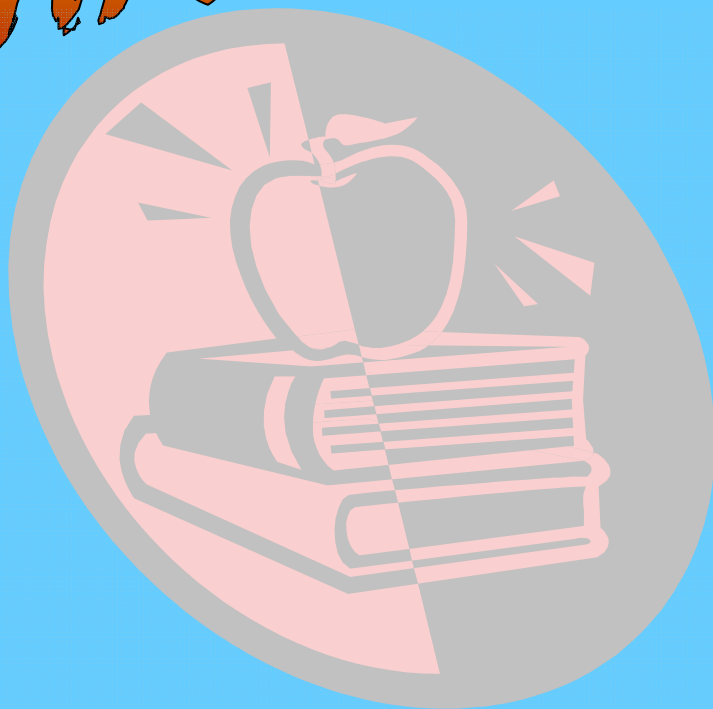


THE FRUIT

of the Spirit



VICTOR PETRENKO

**Original author's 2000 free pdf edition
for the site www.hsmi.net**

Quotes from King James Bible

Contents

Introduction.....	4
The Fruit of the Spirit - Joy.....	5
Salvation.....	15
The Perfect, Unspeakable, Glorified Joy.....	29
Conclusion.....	39

Introduction

John 7:37, 38

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

There are “streams of living water” that bring life with them. But why “streams” and not “stream”? That is because in every one of us the Holy Spirit moves in a special way, differently. There are no similar streams, and these actions and manifestations are not repeatable (*1Cor. 12:4-6,11*).

I do not want just to exalt one of the qualities of the Holy Spirit (one “stream”, the action of the anointing and emphasize only this one, but I would like to give a quality evaluation to a very important element in the spiritual growth of a Christian.

And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Luke 1:46, 47

The Holy Spirit always ascends not on the shaky branches of the mind, but on the heart which is affirmed and thirsty.

The Fruit of the Spirit - Joy

Job 8:21

Till he fill thy mouth with **laughing**, and thy lips with rejoicing.

The real communication with God, heaven, fills our spirit with joy delight, happiness. It is not “filling with the Spirit”, which is based on emotions. It is the longing to the fellowship with the Holy Spirit from within of our heart.

Sometimes, unexpectedly, the Holy Spirit begins to encourage and refresh you inside, renew the joy of your fellowship with Him, and suddenly all the difficulties and troubles that were a "deadlock" a minute ago, now disperse, and all the troubles become absolutely insignificant. Look, what the joy is performing: in the joy of the Holy Spirit, in His sweet presence, the intellect, (soul and mind of a man) ceases to look at all the difficulties and hard circumstances. The reality of the Almighty, All-powerful God, and The One who is above all the problems comes.

When the Holy Spirit encourages and comforts you, you just surrender yourself to the hands of God, you begin to look in future with a great faith and assurance, although any neighbor could say to you: “Why would you rejoice so much, don't you see the “deadlock” in your life?

James 1:1-2

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

When we live according to the flesh, even **knowing** the Bible, it is hard to endure all kinds of temptations, oppressions and sufferings. The Apostle James teaches the Christians, that when scattered they should rejoice, that is not just smile, but with “pure joy” face any opposition.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

It is not talking about human optimism. If we translate the words of James into the language of the today's Christianity, it would sound like this:

- #1 ...To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations, pray and fast.
- #2 Consider it as a great sorrow and pray, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds.

But there we read about joy. Why? I will respond to you not with the letter of the law, but with the practice of the life. When you are in the temptations and tests of the life, start rejoicing and cheer up, as it is written. Just laugh over your trouble and look at the Eternal One, Almighty, sing about the triumph, of His victory. Then the Holy Spirit will place you in the completed work of Jesus Christ and will raise you above the problem of an earthly, miserable life temptation.

Act always in this way in your life, and especially at the time, where there is neither hope nor light.

Think, who and what takes your assurance in salvation, who sows doubts in your Christian life, who says to you that you are not saved and sinful? Just think who is standing behind these doubts of mind and troubles of life?

You think that only you are Job - the one who suffers and your cross in Christ is the heaviest and unbearably terrible?

1 Peter 5:9

Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

My friend, I want to encourage you!

Rejoice!

Smile!

Cheer up in the Lord!

Rejoice!

It is not brother Job who should rejoice. It is you who has to open the doors of your heart to the Holy Spirit. He can reveal to you the mystery about you, and about things that are predestined for you in the Lord. He will distract you from the world and will show you, that your name is in Heaven (*Luke 10:20*).

Matthew 5:12

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

In times of life problems, in the midst of sorrows and temptations, it is sometimes difficult to be satisfied with the promise of the great reward in heaven.

Joy is the free access of the Holy Spirit to the human heart. Then you are ready to accept His help, support, exhortation and teaching.

Habakkuk 3:17, 18

17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Joy it is not some carnal “ha-ha-ha”. It is the source going from inside. I want to explain what “joy” does mean in the Bible.

Luke 6:21

Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall **laugh**.

There is a point of view: If God is willing that I rejoice, may He cheer me up. But you are told in the Scripture: rejoice.

1 Peter 4:12-13

12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though **some strange thing happened unto you**:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

The Apostle Peter says to the Apostle James adding this: you should rejoice during the painful trial (it is like the trial with fire, which obviously, burns us).

1 Thes. 5:16-18

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is **the will of God** in Christ Jesus concerning you.

There is a point of view, that verse 16 is placed here just for the rhyme in the speech, in order to make the statement finer. But it is not

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

true. I believe that for the first Christians, joy, was the only thing left after the powers of the world would rob and deprive them all other things.

Hebrews 10:34

For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

Some people consider this verse only as a historical fact. They do not think about possible persecutions and taking away the property, especially if you have an ironed door and devil is bound.

2 Cor. 8:2

How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

Neither poverty nor life deadlocks will never be able to quench the joy of the Holy Spirit, when you join with God, for Whom there are neither troubles nor persecutions. Then you will not pay attention too much to the "little things" of life, sorrows, as the reality of God's mightiness raises the human spirit above all these things. The country economics does not impact you heart, which is busy now with is personal matters. Your heart has its own business with God.

The righteous man always has victory in all things and is never afraid of anything with God. The joy from the Holy Spirit does not let one to concentrate on the mundane things of the earth.

1 Thes. 1:6

And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

In this way the "product" is operating, the fruit of the Spirit. The joyless Christian that is the one, who does not have this fruit of the Spirit, will always live on those situations and the circumstances of life, in which he is placed. The joyful Christian will always be above all these situations and circumstances of life. Why? Because in reality it is nothing but a visible world, which is alive only some period of time! It means nothing for **the human spirit**, in comparison with an invisible, eternal world.

2 Cor. 4:17-18

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

This kind of reality comes into the consciousness of a spiritual man by the means of the fruit of the Spirit - joy. The Spirit gives birth, creates a fruit - love, joy, peace. These holy attributes ennoble a person, bring healing to the Christian.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The joy not only reveals to the spirit of man the reality of things which belong to the spiritual, everlasting, unseen world, but it contributes to the formation of a new thinking in his mind.

1 Cor. 2:16

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Let us talk about the soul.

Romans 12:1, 2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

It is written here “mind”, “reason”, so it does not speak about our spirit, although we are serving God with our spirit (*Phil.3:3*). It speaks here about transforming our mind by means of the Holy Spirit.

It is the first point.

Secondly, through our mind we can know the will of God. How can we connect all these things? I believe that peace and rest of the mind are going out of the joy in the Holy Spirit, and in this peace God’s desires are revealed to us.

Why the Bible does emphasize joy? **I think it is one of the easiest and simplest ways for a person to acquire the mind of Christ and the knowledge about Him, getting rid of the garbage of the worldly mind.**

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

This is Him - Prince of Peace (rest, Sabbath). He is the One who has this peace abundantly.

I heard one minister say: "It is so hard to be a minister of God." I think I can guess why it is so hard for him:

1. There is no peace and rest in God, because without joy the mind is always in tension.
2. Maybe for a long time he did not rejoice in the Lord, for a long time he did not have any fun with Him. It was probably long ago when he boasted about Him to somebody (he only seriously witnessed about Christ in the street and strictly threatened somebody with the Final judgment and torments of hell.)
3. All work for God sounds like "I must", "I ought"

Certainly, we owe to Christ a lot of things and in many aspects, but everything which concerns our duties in Christ should be like "in Christ". And if our work is in Christ, so is it possible to let some kind of sorrow or mourning cover our hearts? Is it true that the life and work in Christ are joyless? It is true that serving Him won't give us the peaceful mindset?

Deut. 28:47-48

- 47 Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things;
- 48 Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

Read verse 48 and you will understand the meaning of serving with joy and gladness. I will tell about joy in a different way (maybe it will help us to understand this Bible truth).

The joy is like a remedy to remain sober: ☺. Even medicine proves the benefits from laughter:

Proverbs 17:22

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Joy is stimulation. We could say differently: joy similar to the lever directing the spiritual rails: in what way one will direct them, that way the “train” (spirit) will go: either to sorrow, either to joy.

We are those who are to choose, how to serve the Lord (*Deut.28:47,48*), we are those who are to decide, how should we carry our ministry before Him! We are those who ought to change our old (unsaved) mind by the Word of God with the help of the Holy Spirit. This is me who has to learn how to be led by the Holy Spirit, hear His voice, and make my heart soft and sensitive to Him (*John 10:27*).

Hebrews 4:9-10

9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Here we can make the following conclusion about serving God and knowing His will:

1. Without joy serving God becomes traditional religious ritual.
2. Without peace and rest of mind, the fulfillment of His will is not blessed, is not pleasing God and is not perfect.

Philip. 4:7

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

I think that at the present time all decisions of God and His actions with Son are performed by the Angels and all God’s Creation with the great joy and delight of Heavenly Glory. The beauty of Heaven overwhelms with joy all saved people. There all are laughing and smiling it is my picture of heaven. Some people make it much more serious, especially in times when they say to you about being modest and meek Christian, they would inform you with a severe face about terrifying revelation.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

I am a believer from my childhood, and during my life I heard a lot of sermons about the fruit of the Spirit:

“Love” is the way we should love others.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

“Patience” is the way we should be patient to all and with everything.

“Goodness” - how to be good and merciful.

“Faithfulness” that is what you already know.

“Gentleness” - this is the feature we should have.

“Self-control” - Christians need to have this quality.

What concerns joy and peace I heard people saying this: If the Holy Spirit is willing He will give you peace. But it is written: “**Search** for the peace and long to it” It means we should not wait for it, but to find it. Some people pray: “Oh God, give me peace.” He has already given it, you just have to acquire it.

There is a clear commandment of the Lord “to rejoice”. So does it mean that 7 elements of the Spirit are “necessary”, “useful” (“you should keep them”), but you can rejoice only when the Spirit cheers you up. Does it mean again that the two elements “joy” and “peace” will be manifested only from the Spirit by them?

Philip. 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the **peace** of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The Christian, knowing God, but never experiencing the touch of the Holy Spirit, will understand the word “joy” in the Bible as a kind of mood, gladness, joyfulness, that is will evaluate everything in the mental sphere. The person filled with the Holy Spirit, is always in the triumph of the soul and spirit:

Psalms 9:2

I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.

To sing from the spirit, from the heart, out of the whole inner being to the Lord- it means to create something new, fresh and sweet. In the relationship with the Holy Spirit, the love toward Him is born within our heart, and that love is expressed in new forms and shapes; you begin to have new songs, words and prayers. The happy tunes are flowing from

your own heart to God. The soul finds delight in the communion with Him.

Psalm 16:9, 11

9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

As we see, there is not just emotional factor, there is much more here, than some fleshly mood. Although if the Christian is not having pleasure from the relationship with the Holy Spirit, there will not be any signs of happiness in his ministry, which could be seen in his outward expression (*Eph.5:18, 20*).

Psalm 28:7

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

And when the heart is filled with joy, then the lips are filled with the new songs for God. Looking at my wife Tatyana, I see what revival call to existence. Out of abundant relationship with the Holy Spirit, God gives her new songs into the heart. It is not so easy to make a new song while being in the flesh! But here you start speaking it like the Word of God!

Psalm 47:1

O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the **voice of triumph**.

“The cries of joy” it is not just exclamation “amen” in the church. It is equivalent to an excitement of a man having won in the lottery a couple millions of dollars. I don’t think he will modestly say “thank you” to the person bringing him this good news.]

Psalm 71:23

My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed.

Sometimes Christians get used to the choir and worship in the church. And with time it becomes a traditional ritual, because there is neither joy, nor encouragement of the Holy Spirit in it.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

It is not that we can laugh just by flesh. It will not help you. The flesh is nothing but flesh. But when you are thirsty again, when you are longing to the relationship with the Holy Spirit, the encouragement, refreshment, and the reality of the eternal comes. The Kingdom of His power will become so real and clear, that the heart will simply rejoice, lifting above that routine, traditional song.

Romans 14:17

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, **and joy** in the Holy Ghost.

The Kingdom of God consists of nothing but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. You cannot have food, drink, money, lands, all kinds of wealth, but when you possess the peace of mind and joy of heart, and righteousness as your clothing, then the real Kingdom of God will be showing together with all which is in Him. And His Kingdom is a Kingdom of Power!

Neh. 8:10

Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD **is your strength.**

When a person lives independently of the Holy Spirit, does not have communication, meetings with Him, then faith turns into the church duties. Then he is not having time to praise the Creator, and it does not look proper for the situation.

Luke 19:37

And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples **began to rejoice and praise God** with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

Salvation

1 Cor. 5:7-8

- 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:
- 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

In the Scripture we hear the calling to celebrate the feast of Salvation, so some make it a feast of the Easter once a year.

“Let us keep the Festival” means standing and being in this Festival (*Deut. 16:14,15*). It is wrong thing being and standing in salvation just once within a year. I believe, if we celebrate salvation, that is Easter, even weekly, it will be a dead religion, worthless ritual, in which there is no life, no sense.

We should celebrate the Passover of Jesus Christy every day: every day taste from salvation and delight in it. If we live and dwell in it daily: it will **for sure** change something in our thinking (*Ps.126:1-4*).

Hebrews 12:22, 23

- 22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,
- 23 To the **general** assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

The modern translation says "You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly".

The “joyful assembly”, speaking clearly, “joyful meeting” is not a meeting of communists. It is a meeting of joy, excitement, happiness. It is a joyful shouting, admiring something wonderful, heavenly, glorious. If “we have come”, I don’t think we should be only the audience of this “festival”, but the participants of this Church triumph as well.

The prophets of the ancient time spoke by the Holy Spirit about the church as about joyful, shouting generation of people, who would stand up in the power of the Holy Spirit, lift up their voice of praise, they would

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

go and would never be tired, would flow and would not be exhausted (*Is.40:31*).

The Old Testament men of God would understand the essence of salvation, although they did not have the Holy Spirit in them like we have. (In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit could sometimes come upon the kings, prophets and priests, and all others did not have any access to this grace of God). They were thirsty for Him, searching Him; they were singing songs about Him. In such moments the salvation was a kind of deliverance for them, a refuge. Having found Him they were blessed and happy (*Luke 10:24*), they were rejoicing and could find excitement in that great deliverance of God.

Psalm 51:12

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

I sometimes feel sorrow, when I look at the today's church of Jesus Christ: having the Holy Spirit, but lacking the joy of salvation in the Holy Spirit. The holy prophets were dreaming about it, they spoke, predicted, would like to see these days, they died in faith, being not able to wait for this grace (*1Pet.1:10*). But we have decorated ourselves with the intellectual teachings of the church. Having the great power of salvation, deliverance, power of the Holy Spirit, we do not use our freedom as an instrument for delivering others (*Luke 4:18*). The mind does not allow us to rejoice. Is it possible to thrust on somebody our sorrow, the "burden" of salvation? How the one who is not free himself, can deliver anybody?

Our time has come! The days of grace are revealed! The time has come to give ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit and accomplish the kind of salvation, which is predestined for the Church (*Acts 2:41;4:4*).

Galatians 4:27

For it is written, **Rejoice**, thou barren that bearest not; **break forth and cry**, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

The modern translation gives more colorful description. It is written so: "Be glad, O barren woman, who bears no children, **break forth and cry aloud**, you who have no labor pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."

We are the children of a free mother. We are the children of salvation! We are the Church, bursting out in shouts of joy and triumph in Christ (*2Cor. 2:14*). Praise the Lord! Alleluia!

I don't mean here the sermons, which speak only about this. I speak about the real experience of salvation, Easter of Jesus Christ! About that wonderful delight in joy and triumph, this for the Old Testament saints was only a matter of dreams.

People often divide emotions, expressed by the Christians into holy and not holy ones. For example, shouting or laughing- it is not appropriate for the church, not pure emotion (some even think that the joy in life and laugh are given to people by satan). And opposite: crying and tears, these are super holy and meek, the real church emotions. These standards, frames and limits are being installed by human mind. How far the man allows them to be, as far they will be shown in his life! Many factors influence the development of human intellect, for example culture, education, ethics, esthetics, family, society, politics. And if in the church people start organizing an "intelligent ministry" (*Rom. 12:1,2*), then "worshipping by the Spirit of God" (*Phil.3:3*) will look like the modern legalism, where the intellect reigns.

When during my ministries something unusual happens (people laugh, cry, have being healed from their sicknesses, fell under the power of God, some of them are being saved), the "intellect" (I will call by this name a Christian with a traditional mindset), is standing and reflecting on how it is possible for a person to be saved in a service, where, to his mind, an absolute chaos reigns. Such a person considers this kind of service not holy, as he was taught in that way, he has known Christ in a different manner.

Ephes. 4:20, 21

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and **have been taught by him**, as the truth is in Jesus:

Christ is a kind of anointing. How much a Christian has learnt walking in the anointing, submitting to the Holy Spirit and constantly giving Him the priority in his life, as much as he can be used by God (*1John 2:20,27; 2Tim.3:14*).

2Thes. 2:15

Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the **traditions** which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

Using the letter of this verse, people worship God according to a tradition, which they had accepted from someone, and think that only their style and method of worship conforms to the Scripture. But it says here about something different. "Intellect" always compares himself with

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

some opinion, mindset of others. That is why he restrains himself and does not give place to the Holy Spirit. He always thinks this way: “And what other people will think about this?” He won’t let unusual and unspeakable things happen during his “great and intellectual service”.

Acts 2:2, 15

- 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it **filled** all the house where they were sitting
15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

God is operating with the Holy Spirit in the hearts of people. It is reflected in feelings and emotions. And if this expression so often impresses “an established and educated Christian”, what shock would strike him, if a mighty tornado was blowing during his service?!

I think, the “intellect” is not just ready for the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the physical world.

Acts 12:21-23

- 21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.
22 And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.
23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

The Christian, filled not with the letter of the Scripture, but with the Holy Spirit, can accomplish great things in the power of anointing. I think that as there are not many people filled with the anointing, we have so little manifestation in the physical world.

Acts 13:9-12

- 9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,
10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?
11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, **believed**, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

I am told today, that it is impossible for the people to be saved, when in the service room people are laughing crawling on the floor. And here we see an incident when a respected man was saved without words, only at the view of another stricken by blindness.

Isaiah 12:3

Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

The more I will take (draw) water of the Holy Spirit in joy, the more I will have of this water (*Jn. 7:37, 38*).

God's provision and design are made in the way that nobody can do anything without His help and anointing. Anyone can try to be a pastor, preacher, some kind of a minister, but not all of them can perform (create, accomplish) a miracle, or any other action of God without the "water" of the Holy Spirit. The more of this water I will pour into my vessel, the more I will be able to perform, and to bring out.

Psalms 9:14

That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation.

Rejoice about His salvation! Cheer up and shout in His freedom! Arise in triumph and lift yourself above those things that surround you. It is very easy to transform the sorrowful spirit of doubt into the peace and rest of God. You can start rejoicing right now, without waiting for Sunday, when you pastor will take care of you and will be compassionate to your terrible situation. Smile to Jesus, begin to thank Him and worship, even if it is not in agreement with your "subject", and start rejoicing in the Lord! Make the negative thinking leave right now and start having fun!

May the peace of God's joy and rest fill your mind! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Shout: "Alleluia, Jesus!"

Zeph. 3:14

Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The revival brings about awareness of salvation. The day of redemption is the day of the first love. If the first love to God fades, then the doubt about salvation comes in. What kind of faith can be with doubt?

God has adopted you, called “daughter”, “Israel”, “Jerusalem” and it gives joy to the heart.

Isaiah 61:10

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Maybe you were listening sad songs on TV or on the radio. Usually the hopeless situation is expressed there. Some Christians imitating this compose the same kind of songs. They even sing such songs to God in the church. As if God needed them very much.

The song of joy is born out of the happy mood, which fills all your being. The words of the song should reflect the respect from the heart to God, honor and reverence before Him. The soul sings of the Beauty of God being in fear and trembling before his Majesty. The song of love is flowing like a river. The heart is pouring out love to his Beloved One. Worship it is a style of the heart life, being in love with God (*S.Song 1:3*).

Philip. 2:12

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

The reality of salvation is reflected in the great joy in the heart and laughter in the spirit. It is not simply “ha-ha” or “hi-hi” in the flesh. Sometimes these are tears of joy, sometimes it is a delight about Highest, Wonderful!

Col. 1:11

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness

Sometimes from the mightiness of His Glory, our flesh becomes like grass. During my ministries people laugh, cry, and fell down from the great Glory of God. But all this is only visible, manifestation, form, shadow. For me the most important is what happens inside the personality, in the heart.

I love the Glory of God! I love the Holy Spirit! I love to speak and write about Him!

Jude 1:24,25

24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

25 To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Before I did not understand, why I could find myself doubting about my salvation? It turns out that without the Holy Spirit the mind comes back to the previous position of not being saved (because it is not saved, in Greek “not delivered”). Sometimes, having spent a few days in such a mood, you can look at yourself as at an unbeliever. And here you hear the sermon: "Saved, rejoice!"

Psalm 68:3

But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

Salvation is the essence of Christianity. When a person loses his salvation (I mean having doubts in mind about it), then the sense of life and service to God is lost. Some people are taught how to save themselves again: they start praying and fasting, blaming themselves for the bad sinful nature, worse than everybody else. I don't want to make jokes of anybody. I just tell you about my own experience on my way of seeking holiness.

And now I surround my thoughts with peace and try to be on my guard in this. How do I get it? It is very easy, the way it is written in the Scripture:

Philip. 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Together with the Holy Spirit you are returning your mind to the starting point of salvation, the time, where there is only gladness and happiness of life in Christ. There is the first love, which you are stirring up again, having delight in eternal, glorious heaven (*Rev.2:4*). And if the first love has come back again, then not only joyful mood appears, but much more than this. The Holy Spirit is a good helper. There are no problems of salvation with Him.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Isaiah 25:9

And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, **we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.**

All your trust and all your hope you “switch” to Him, and do not trust your own reason. And then the reality of salvation is renewed, the delight of that which takes place then overwhelms your spirit.

Psalm 35:9

And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

If we read all Bible passages about joy in the Greek original text, then all our limitation of thinking would disappear. The primitive thinking of believers considers the laughter in the church as something vulgar or inappropriate. And I am not talking here about some kind of arrogant neighing or mockery. I am talking about the delight of a soul, about the joy in the Holy Spirit. The splendor of His Glory is so wonderful, that it is impossible to express the delight in a different way. You are ready to explode from the feeling of happiness and gladness of soul, being aware of His great salvation! Alleluia!

Psalm 126:1-3

- 1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, **we were like them that dream.**
- 2 Then was **our mouth filled with laughter**, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.
- 3 The LORD hath done great things for us; **whereof we are glad.**

In verse 1 salvation is described as a dream. It seems unreal. It is so great and striking; that you hold your breath as you are so astonished by something incredible. It is impossible to experience the joy of salvation in mind. The intellectual agreement with salvation wills never “fill your mouth with laughter” (*verse 2*).

The modern translation says: "**Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy**" (*Ps.126:2*). In order to understand it, we should experience the joy of salvation not in mind, but in the spirit. That is possible only in the Holy Spirit.

There are a lot of “bright minds” in today’s Christianity, but not-salvation has penetrated into the church. All people sit as in a waiting room. All the preaching is about Egypt. The choir is mourning.

Everybody has Calvary like sufferings on their faces, from the service to service the same cycle. I sometimes think, maybe the Angel of the Lord was mistaken?!

Luke 2:10

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings **of great joy, which shall be to all people.**

In reality, many Christians having entered into heaven will be shocked for thousand years, because they will see the splendor of God's glory, and joyful, excited happy angels (*Hebr. 1:14*), the joy and gladness of salvation. The older brother having calmed down from the shock is asking Ap. Peter: "It is amazing: I always would try to avoid those "modern" Christians, but it turned out to be that all of them are here, in heaven. I got used to the godly behavior, and here even angels behave themselves inappropriate for the saints?! The Apostle Peter answers to the brother:

1 Peter 1:8

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, **ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory**

The older brother says to Apostle Peter: "I have never thought during my life, that it was possible on the earth to live in the salvation of the Heavenly Kingdom." I was preaching on sadness, meekness, holiness and for the joy I waited heaven?!

Apostle Peter would answer to the brother: "**But rejoice** that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so you may be glad also with exceeding joy" (*1Pet.4:13*).

Try to understand this parable: It is true for 100% in lives of some people.

Isaiah 12:2-6

2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

3 **Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.**

4 And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- 5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.
- 6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

To experience salvation means to receive the revelation of the Holy Spirit about the reality of eternal, unsearchable richness in Christ. To be in salvation and dwell in it: it is a freedom, presented to us by the Lord on the Calvary! It is not an intellectual consent and confessing the teaching. Absolutely not! It is not one time agreement and experience of salvation. In the fellowship with the Holy Spirit it is revealed and becomes real and clear. The human being is astonished by its splendor. The Christian who is not involved in it, who is not making his salvation, not revealing its substance, very often is not engaged in the Heavenly Kingdom. Such Christians are the majority.

Usually the church members are the same as their pastor is. As much the pastor has revealed for himself the power of the Kingdom, as much he is used in the salvation matter. If this power is little, such church will not harm the kingdom of darkness very much.

The Christian who experiences his salvation more and more, will be convinced more of the fact that he has been delivered from the power of darkness, which he would never look at that direction. There is no shame in Christ; there is nothing and nobody to be afraid of. Such boldness we are having in Jesus and in His redemptive work on the cross.

1 John 3:21

Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

Of course anyone can be saved by faith even at death's door:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

It is written here about **heart** and its desire. And if the man believes even before his very death he will be saved, even if he did not have a chance to visit the church and go through a traditional ritual. But there is more in salvation than just to be saved.

The weak knowledge of salvation (only, in the realm of mind), will not give the power to a Christian to stand firm during the persecutions against the church. He can backslide and give up even during the trials of

the life (that is in safe home atmosphere). And in order for a Christian not to backslide and not to have doubts about the fact of him being delivered, he needs to taste this salvation as often as possible. One has to believe, to be thirsty for it and desire it (*John 7:37, 38*), to taste the sweetness of the new life in Jesus Christ. Biblically speaking it means rejoice, celebrate!

I cannot say that having tasted the kindness and mercy of the Lord, the man can have anything from God, create anything using His power, without having the joyful heart and bold spirit. Before I could not suppose that with the support of the Holy Spirit and joy in Him I could do much more. It does not mean simply hang on oneself 5 ministries, 10 church duties, and along with this to put the encouraging motto on the mirror: "You must, you need, you has to, you are responsible", and get up every morning with the sense of a great hard-worker glory". The time goes by, and you see such man as a n early retired person, dry, wrinkled, sitting in front of a TV set, caring for nothing. Where has it gone: enthusiasm, potential, feeling anxious about the lost souls?

The Scripture says that joy is a power (*Nehemiah 8:10*). The most important here is not just laughter, but the sense of the reaction, which is the content of this laughter. The laughter itself does not matter; the thing which matters is behind the laughter. **The laughter is the language of joy**, it is one of the manifestations of the human reactions. The main is the heart, longing for God, willing to give up sell everything, in order to please the Holy Spirit and honor Him. It is the love to God, thirst for Him! Such heart is not interested in the earth: it is looking for an opportunity to meet with Him. Being close to Him that is what satisfies the heart (*Song of Songs 2:4,5*).

Psalm 73:25

Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

God is looking for such people. They are not going to the health resort places because of life troubles cold. They are only reflecting on the things from above, constantly on their guard, are constantly praying, what exactly means "be joyful always..."! I personally understand the message about "being joyful" as the one which means "keeping good spirits". In my previous environment "keeping good spirits" or "being on one's guard" meant: walking with a donkey grimace on one's face, as if one had eaten a lemon, to behave modestly and humbly and have always serious expression. Then all people would tell about such a man:"This is holy brother; he is always on his guard and behaves properly." When I meet such brothers, especially older people, I am feel like shouting: "Brother, take off the mask!" All this is just Pharisee's mask, not having heart,

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

willing to have fellowship with God. It is only like the rule on the top of another rule, the law on another law.

The voice of joy is the sound of joy. How can we rejoice with the voice of joy not in a loud voice (without making the sound)? Some people have this voice of joy only in "the heart", and they are always busy with a serious ministry, they carry on the "word of truth" in wisdom. Unfortunately the voice of their words can't influence human hearts. The letters which they bring neither has nor powers neither weight.

Why am I so actively opposing religion and its results? I call it all the "stink in the spirit". Why? Because it is death!

Psalm 118:15

The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: the right hand of the LORD doeth valiantly.

Having cheered up in salvation, the Christian renews his thinking, is established in the spirit; refreshing his feelings, and is lifted above all negative thoughts. Some people say to me, that during my services people go into ecstasies and that all this is taking place only in the realm of emotions and feelings.

1 Thes. 5:23

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And about mental, physical realm I would tell the way the scripture says about it:

1 Corinthians 2:4

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

Reading this passage in the amplified version, we can notice a very important nuance of these words. It is written: " And my language and my message were not set forth in persuasive (enticing and plausible) words of wisdom, but they were in demonstration of the [Holy] Spirit and power [a proof by the Spirit and power of God, operating on me and stirring in the minds of my hearers **the most holy emotions** and thus persuading them]".

The holy emotions are going out of the holy and pure heart. Unclean emotions are going out of the unclean heart and corrupted mind. The demonstration of the Spirit and His touch influences the spirit, soul

and body. And if this is the real love, then it is always rejoicing in the great truth of God. If one does not have love- then you won't see him smiling.

1 Cor. 13:6

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

The emotions of love are expressed in joy, and this is Biblical way, God has nothing against it. Person, not having love, is not very much interested in God, although he may have gifts and the knowledge of the whole Bible. Usually the Christians of this kind are busy with the sharing of their possessions, burning down their bodies, but very often it takes place only in the sphere of sermons and words.

The true holy emotions and feelings in Christ are always coming from being comforted by the Holy Spirit. People in love are smiling, in religion- they are mourning. The love always brings joy, which you can't help noticing on one's face!

Proverbs 15:13,15

13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

15 All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.

I just don't believe in the love which is not expressed in emotions and feelings. There are such Christians, who love God only with heart and mind. There are such couples of people, where they love one another only in heart and mind. There are such Pharisees, scribes and Sadducees, who so strongly love God with heart and mind. But will say this: if these Christians, couples, Pharisees, Sadducees through all their life preach their sermons to one another, then there will always be death, religion, and obligation.

What can better express love than emotions, feelings of the soul? Is it true that within a family life or the marriage with Jesus, we should not have big smiles, tender words spoken to one another, delight, and happiness? Can we have a love without feelings? I am grateful to God-Creator, having made everything so wonderful! Praise God for emotions, may we have them more. God is Love! And if He is Love, there will be all the best and splendid.

That is why "elder" (older) children of God teach "babies" (younger children) this idea that God does not produce emotions, feelings, laughter, that they were most likely additionally created by

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

satan. The devil of course perverts God's made love with its feelings and use this method with purpose to lead the world to the destruction.

Psalm 2:4

He that sitteth in the heavens **shall laugh**: the Lord shall have them in derision.

God Himself consists of Love. Even while creating the humankind, He made them according to His own image and likeness. Some people tell me: "Brother, you should not laugh, this is sin." Then I will ask you: is that true that I cannot express my love toward Him with a big smile? He did saved me, justified, offered me His Kingdom, have forgiven me all my deeds. How can't I rejoice about all of this? Is it sin to laugh?

That is why "children" (babies) of God have such a waxen understanding of their Father-Creator. Then I understand the reason of their boring and tiresome ministry and love toward Him.

While growing in the Christian environment, I saw all kinds of emotional Christians. **And however, there should be the motive of the heart.** God is looking at the root, not at the crown of the tree. Whatever way emotions are expressed, God is looking at the human heart with its love, and I don't care how the person expresses his/her love to God. All this is just physical, visible world. If God is looking at the heart, why should I argue about the physical manifestations of something which is inside? The outward forms of these manifestations can be different.

Eccles. 3:4

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

For me much more important not the outward expression, but the way God is doing His work inside. The one who does not see spiritually, is able only to judge and estimate by the outward expressions.

1 Cor. 2:14, 15

- 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
- 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

The Perfect, Unspeakable Glorious Joy

What then did Jesus say concerning joy?

Matthew 25:21

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Verse 21 speaks about the joy of the master. Is it possible to enter one's joy, if that person does not have any?

The joy of the master, it is his essence, nature, life and way of existence (*Song of Songs 3:11*).

Hebrews 1:9

Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the **oil of gladness** above thy fellows.

The oil means anointing. The composition of the oil is joy.

It is very easy to distinguish the anointed service. One can think that I am looking only at joy, as if there were nothing better for me. Certainly, if we only look at the visible expression of joy, then there is no sense in it. But if we consider the essence of oil, then it means the life in anointing, and thus it means everything. When you have on yourself the oil of the Holy Spirit, then you become the partaker of your Master, enter the essence of His existence, become the one with Him.

Isaiah 61:3

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the **oil of joy** for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Jesus compared the Heavenly Kingdom with a hidden treasure. Every man which finding (or discovering) this treasure is rewarded with a great joy, in which we come to understand the real value of things in our life.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Matthew 13:44

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and **for joy** thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

In order for this life to be revealed or shown, we should experience, see, and hear approach, touch it.

1 John 1:1-4

- 1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and **our hands have handled**, of the Word of life;
- 2 (For the life **was manifested**, and **we have seen it**, and **bear witness**, and **shew unto you** that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)
- 3 That which **we have seen and heard declare we unto you**, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

I don't think they had contact with Christ in flesh. The Apostle Paul says that if we knew Christ in flesh before, then now we don't know Him (*1Cor. 5:16*).

The word "appeared" carries by itself a wider meaning: "shown", "demonstrated", "revealed", "opened", "visible". When this life is revealed to a person, then every idea and conclusion about God is changed. And every time when the salvation and revelation come, person acquires more and more knowledge about His Kingdom and Its power. The revelation in the spirit extends the understanding about the possibilities and work of the Holy Spirit through a person.

Those people, to whom this life "appeared" can tell, write, and teach something about it. And today many testify about things they have never seen, heard, neither touched to (*James 3:1*).

When the joy is little, not completely **perfect**, then the Heavenly Kingdom is not so real.

Sometimes I tell to a minister: "Brother, rejoice!", and he answers: "Inside myself, in my heart I always rejoice." Then immediately I remember the words of Christ, that the Kingdom of God is always within us and it comes in an invisible manner. So the conclusion will be that if the Kingdom of God does not have any evidence and not visible, then the Lord and His Kingdom are not fully real for a person (*Luke 17:20*). And for some people the ministry becomes a perfect sorrow instead of a perfect joy.

John 17:13

And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have **my joy fulfilled** in themselves.

The perfect careless simplicity and happiness we can see in children. They don't know how to be serious, how to deal with adult questions. They are but simply children. Christ said that if a man does not become as a child, he won't be able to comprehend the Heavenly Kingdom (*2Cor.11:3; Mtth. 10:16*). Simplicity is happiness, calm and peace of the mind. For an adult person to be a child in the Heavenly Kingdom is a very hard thing, especially when he graduated from two Bible colleges. And if he is a preacher, then it seems almost impossible. If our mind stays in the realm of physical problems, then our spirit finds it hard to raise above all these things. That is why the happiness of a joyful and merry childish careless life is taken away.

John 16:22

And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.

God encourages His children with His Word again and again: Rejoice! But about what or whom should we rejoice? But He has promised to come again, meet with you. If you come to see Him today, you will always have joy, which is nothing and none is able to take away from you. He is always with you; you have no reason to be distracted from Him by the side life storms (*John 16:13*). You should rejoice about the One Who fills you. He has already said: "I will see you again." How it is wonderful to meet Him! Hallelujah (*Song of Songs. 3:1-4*)!

John 16:24

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be **full**.

The complete joy is from Him and fellowship with Him. I think that the word "ask" does not mean beg, cry, groan and to be in the agony of suspense. Many think that we should ask and ask Him, as if He is slow in order to "temper" us. No! These words testify only about His favor and our special relationship with God. Jesus says about our dependence on Him, absolute trust in Him. He is offering us a favor.

I can say this: "Become thirsty for Him, desire to receive from Him things that your heart is longing to." And do not ask only once for all. "Ask". "Look for". "Knock". All this is about the heart, in which there

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

should be a striving for Him, thirst and desire to have Him more and more.

Joy is an answer, receipt!

1 Peter 1:6-8

6 Wherein ye **greatly rejoice**, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye **rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory**

Rejoice, although you don't see Him, because you love Him! The joy goes away, when the thirst, love, jalousie for Him is vanished, that is one looses interest for Him. Then we can't speak about an unspeakable, glorious joy.

This great interest, satisfaction in God produces the abundance of bliss. English and Greek versions explain the word "joy" in the following way: "delight", "laughter", "joyful exclamation", and "loud laughter".

John 15:11

These things have I spoken unto you, that my **joy** might remain in you, and that your **joy** might be **full**.

It is impossible to change the reality of an eternal peace for the mirages of the physical ideas about God. The life troubles are so insignificant in comparison with the joy in the Holy Spirit.

The followers of Jesus even in the midst of troubles were filled with the joy of the Spirit. Although in flesh it was hard to do it, but they had inside themselves that complete and unspeakable joy.

Acts 13:52

And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

Besides that they were visiting churches and producing there a great joy.

Acts 15:3

And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: **and they caused great joy** unto all the brethren.

This was not a mere gladness, but a great, complete, unspeakable joy! I don't think these services were like the circus performances, but I believe that the fruit of the Holy Spirit was evident there.

Acts 8:4-8

4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8 And there **was great joy** in that city.

The work of the Holy Spirit is possible only in case of a close fellowship with Him, with the great love to Him and thirst for Him. Christ told us to rejoice now, and not in heaven.

Matthew 5:11-12

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

The reward is waiting for us in heaven, not on the earth. And now living on the earth, at this time, we should rejoice.

I don't think Jesus would tell it incidentally, just to say. No. There is an insight in it. In other words, this passage can be explained in the following way: "You possess blessings, joy and gladness, but not the troubles, insults and curses, in which you are living now. Here you and your spirit are provided with the best things, which you can have during the persecutions and temptations. I will give an advice for your heart:

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

raise in your spirit above all these troubles and get satisfied with your eternal, wonderful predestination, which will be crowned with a reward."

Christ here directs our attention not to the sorrows, but to the most important, eternal, essential things. The troubles are insignificant in comparison with this eternal, heavenly. But they can even wound a strong Christian, if he pays attention to them or to the persecutions for Christ. And in order to keep oneself and ones' thoughts in the most important things and not hesitate during the life storms, Jesus suggests (in His Sermon on the Mount) to be distracted from the troubles and persecutions, that is, to rejoice.

Hebrews 10:34

For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and **took joyfully** the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

In such situations the man can only rejoice, when his heart is not bound to his possessions. It is so great to be free and independent. Such life for a Christian is **a life of joy**.

Psalms 34:19

Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

If I imagine that God says this about me, having His plan for me, then it would look like this: "Why you, Victor, are not looking at the things above? Why do you pay attention to the words, which people tell about you? Why are you so sensitive to those difficult circumstances? Lift up your eyes from the earth and look up at those things which wait for you. Start rejoicing and stop being discouraged because of little insignificant events. A lot of new and wonderful things are ahead on the way. Do not rack your brains over different circumstances and situations. Look at the essential, the most important things. Look at My things, what I have for you. You do not need to be depressed. Rejoice!"

Isaiah 61:7

For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them.

When a Christian did not rejoice for a long time, then doubt and uncertainty take possession of his mind. In other words he has distracted his attention from the essence of his calling. When the main, eternal

meaning is lost, then the Christian without the joy and the Holy Spirit begins to do the deeds of holiness, sanctification etc. At this point the process of the dead religion accomplishments and self-accusation enter into game. The way out of this situation is the only one: rejoice! And what the joy can bring in. From my experience I can say this, that rejoicing is not trying to make oneself laugh or trying make oneself do "ha-ha-ha". There is no purpose here to get laughter. In reality when you only start smiling, then you notice that you laugh just in flesh. There is no special spiritual action here. Smile is a "spiritual purgative" for an "asserted mind". So you address to the Holy Spirit for help with smile. And for Him it is easier to work with human hearts. When the Spirit comforts and encourages you, you are just in the peace of the Lord. You are thinking about Him. When in fellowship with the Holy Spirit, everything around you becomes insignificant and unimportant.

Acts 9:31

Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

In reality one could say, that it is not the laughter itself that becomes the subject of the encouragement in the Lord, but the address to the Holy Spirit. Calling for help to the Lord is the reason of joy.

Jeremiah 33:3

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

We could say it this way: great, inaccessible and incomprehensible to our mind things are revealed in the spirit. And this revelation contains in itself an indescribable delight and happiness.

Why the people of this world can rejoice even in hard times of life. They go to their friends to ask 100 gram of vodka and "comfort their hearts".

They call it a distraction of the mind from the reality. The believer does not have possibility to get drunk. And if he can't, then certainly, his mind is overloaded from Sunday to Sunday.

Would not it be better to have a "wine-glass" of the Holy Spirit in the morning, at noon a couple of wine-glasses, and in the evening to the dregs, then the things would go in a much more easier and successful way. And if you feel that you are still not satisfied, go to your friends' party (Wednesday church service) and stay there until the morning with

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

songs "in joy" (*Acts 20:7-12*)! Unfortunately today we have only the "word" and "commandments". It is a kind of intellectual training in God.

Ephes. 5:18-20

- 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
- 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
- 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Believe me, brother: it is not the letter of the Scripture - "to get drunk" - and it was not written for us just as a matter of writing something. If Apostle Paul could compare the fact of being filled with the Holy Spirit with a worldly, unclean notion of "being drunk", then we can trust the fact, which is described as one that had happened on the day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:15

For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

So it means there was a reason to think in this way and to write in this way.

And what is typical for drunken people? For example it is the fact that they are always singing songs. It is similar to the idea, described in *Eph. 5:19*.

Isaiah 65:14

Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit.

"My servants shall **sing for joy of heart...**"

Sometimes Pharisees challenge me with these questions: "it is not written in the Bible", or "it is not Scriptural", "but the Word of God says this"... etc. And some people say: "You invent everything new, there were no such things in the church history." Or: "Brother, we need the Word, and not "ha-ha". The main thing it is the Word of God and that everything would be based on His Words. But you bring us the teaching about a strange joy and various emotional manifestations."

I am puzzled: they consider themselves as people having sight, and the fact that in my sermons there is always a Scripture reference- they are not able to see?! How can I give them the Word!

I understood the truth about those people who had killed Christ: they had chosen it according to their heart's decision to dwell in the spiritual blindness and death. The letter which is in their mind is destroying and killing them. They are not willing to go through, to experience, and to feel in their spirit the reality of God's Words. Then this letter would become alive in their hearts and would bring them salvation. They don't love God, as it written, though they think, that they love Him with all their heart. If they have love there would not be questions.

Deut. 6:5-6

5 And thou shalt **love** the LORD thy God with **all thine heart**, and with all thy soul, and with **all thy might**.

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine **heart**

In my life before I experienced joy in the Holy Spirit, I could not understand many things about the Will of God and serving Him. Although I knew the Bible, and everything was clear for me, I tried to live a holy life, to fulfill the Scripture, but along with this I had 1102 questions which I wanted to ask God.

Joy is the effect of experiencing the Holy Spirit (baptism with the sign of tongues), then the Spirit will reveal me many things Himself, He will teach me, exhort me. The years were passing by, but I had nothing, besides a few visits of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks to my God for His unspeakable gift of love and mercy toward me! God has used His vessel, shown His love to me, having plunged me in His wonderful glory. And now the more fellowship I have with Him, and then more He is revealing His will, intentions, plans, Scripture.

Probably, my position in God would be much better, if before I knew, that one should be thirsty for the Lord and His Spirit even more than one was before the baptism. But I am happy to have the love and mercy of Jesus, His wisdom and revelation, which He is sending me at the proper time.

John 7:37, 38

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

I believe He will give you peace and joy, but you should seek His face. You ought to be thirsty all the time, and then everything will be OK.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

This promise is given by the Holy Spirit through the prophets of the Lord. Accept and believe this and take it into your life:

Eccles. 2:26

For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

Do not take the tasks close to your heart, rejoice and you will be even wealthier!

Isaiah 9:3

Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

Conclusion

Philip. 3:1

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

Dear brother!

If it was long time ago when you rejoiced in the Lord, **then you can start it right now**, regardless what surrounds you, **start rejoicing and cheering up in His salvation!**

Open your heart to the Holy Spirit, smile to Him and say: Teach me knowledge and good judgment (*Psalm 119:66*).

Take a step of faith into your salvation. With rejoicing and triumph go ahead and be happy. Never stop, rejoice always!

2 Cor. 2:14

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to **triumph** in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

If you are given something then have it and enjoy it, if you are not given-take it, if you are willing to have it.

I want to wish you as Apostle Paul did wished the church in Rome:

Romans 15:13

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.