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Joy: Creating the Conditions for Joy

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Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV): "...for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV): The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV): But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

I can't grow the fruit, but I can tend the tree.

Three Habits for Creating the Conditions to Produce Fruit

Galatians 5:24 (NIV): Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Habit #1: Kill the Flesh

Galatians 5:24 (NIV): Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Habit #2: Walk by the Spirit

Galatians 5:25 (NIV): Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

S: Scripture – read a passage

O: Observation – write out what you notice

A: Application – Ask "Holy Spirit, how can I apply this to my life today?"

P: Prayer – Pray about the passage

Habit #3: Keep Your Heart Right Toward Others

Galatians 5:26 (NIV): Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.