



## [Galatians 5:22](#)

(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

*New International Version*

Since [love](#) is a fruit, a product, of God's [Holy Spirit](#), could its companion, [joy](#), be produced in us differently? Like love, joy is not the product of the natural mind but the product of the supernatural Holy Spirit of [God](#). If it is not a product of the natural mind, then pursuing it apart from the guidance of the Holy Spirit will produce only very limited and pale imitations of what God experiences by nature and greatly desires to be in us.

[David](#) writes, "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" ([Psalm 16:11](#)). It is interesting to compare our joy with God's continual joy and simultaneously think of what destroys joy for us. As long as we are human, joy diminishes and eventually ends. We realize this even as we experience it. I have owned several new automobiles. Each time I took a new one home, I received it with joy as if I had a new toy. But in each case I eventually acquired the same attitude toward the new car as I formerly had toward the old one. The joy was gone, and the car was again nothing more than a tool to convey me from one place to another.

No matter how secure the sources of our joy seem, we know joy does not last long. We may die; a mate or a friend who brings us joy may die; good health ceases; comforts vanish; social tragedies and natural disasters destroy loved things, properties depreciate and wear out; and our senses become dull so that we cannot see, hear, taste, feel, or smell as we once did ([II Samuel 19:31-35](#)).

The God who created everything is aware of all the human tragedies that have unfolded before His eyes over the past 6,000 years, and He still finds cause to be joyful. Our great God does not find joy in the tragedies themselves. His Word records times when He expressed regret, sorrow, or anger over the conduct of mankind, and yet He still

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for Galatians 5:22 (<http://www.theberean.org>) experiences a vibrant, lasting joy. This seems to imply that His joy generally wells from different sources than mankind's. It is this joy we need to seek.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

**To learn more, see:**

**[The Fruit of the Spirit: Joy](#)**

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