

**Vital Signs are indicators of LIFE...**

1. Physical vital signs that indicate a person is physically alive (heart beat, breathing rate, temperature, blood pressure)
2. Fruit of the Holy Spirit indicate that a person is spiritually alive. ***The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*** (Gal 5:22-23)
3. Spiritual life comes from God thru faith in Jesus Christ (Eph 2:8)
4. Fruit of the Holy Spirit in people's lives is the result of relationship with and 'abiding' in Christ.

**1. JOY – The 'Family of Joy'**

- There are 3 Greek words that are very closely 'related' in the N.T.
  1. 'Chara' is most frequently translated 'joy,' also translated 'gladness,' 'joyfulness'
  2. 'Chairo' is primarily translated 'rejoice,' as well as 'be glad' and 'joy'
  3. 'Charis' is the word for grace, or God's divine favor:

**2. Joy - More than 'emotions'**

- Joy can certainly be expressed as an emotion
  1. Webster: Joy – a feeling of great pleasure and happiness
  2. Health benefits of joyful expression – *A cheerful heart does good like medicine, but a broken spirit makes one sick* (Prov 17:22 TLB) {Substantiated by recent medical studies}
- Biblical 'joy' goes much deeper than our emotions

**3. Contrast 'Earthly joy' and 'Kingdom joy'**

- **Earthly Joy**
  1. Using Webster's definition, then joy would be when we are feeling great pleasure and happiness
  2. 'Great pleasure and happiness' is when things are going well and good...
- **Kingdom Joy** - *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.* (Romans 14:17)
  1. The Source is God: Fruit of the Holy Spirit
    - *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* (Rom 15:13)
    - *Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation* (Hab 3:18)
    - *Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation* (Isa 12:3)
  2. Kingdom joy is not dependent on circumstances
    - Our greatest example is Jesus: *Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God* (Heb 12:2)
  3. Kingdom joy is of God, and because of God...
    - *In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.* (Psm 16:11)
    - *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.* (James 1:2,3) *Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy.* (NLT)
- **The Joy of the Lord... is your strength!** (Nehemiah 8:5-10)
  1. *Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.* (Neh 8:10)
    - Joy = Strength = place of safety, fortified place, fastness, stronghold, refuge