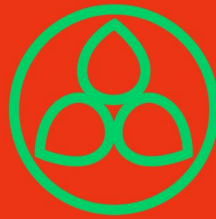




# PENTECOST RETREAT



**ARNA**  
Anglican Renewal Network Australia

## **ARNA PENTECOST PODCAST 2023 Week 5, TALK 3 Celebrating the Fruit of the Spirit**

Welcome to week 5, our last week of the 2023 Pentecost Retreat. Today is Wednesday June 28. This week's topic is the "Holy Spirit and drawing us near."

### **I Focus Centring On God's Presence**

Jesus said in John 14:17b

*"But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."*

Holy Spirit, we still ourselves in your presence, wanting to know you more deeply. We desire to discover what pleases you and what delights you.

We ask for a freshly awakened, and deepened, fellowship with you Holy Spirit, the same fellowship Paul prayed for in 2 Corinthians 13:14.

Holy Spirit, we make this time to draw near to you and focus on your presence in joy, love, and wonder.

We pray for understanding, knowledge, revelation, wisdom, counsel, and a holy fear of the Lord.

We breathe you in, very breath of God, and welcome your fellowship and wisdom.

.... in the silence I pray ....

[Pause]

## **I Imagine**

Today we celebrate a fruit of the Spirit. The Spirit's fruit grows in us as we co-operate with Holy Spirit's abiding, sanctifying, presence within us.

### Galatians 5:22-23a

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control.”*

Our apple tree produced well this year and so we celebrated and shared the crop. We praised the white flesh, the flavour, the crisp taste, and we shared some of it with our family, neighbours, and friends.

Holy Spirit is the dynamic Spirit of God.

Holy Spirit's fruit is always producing.

I find myself wondering how well do I celebrate it?

Do I examine the precious fruit further and seek to taste and see how good it is?

Do I freely, and even extravagantly, share it with family and friends?

[Pause]

## **I Challenge myself**

### Ps 16:11 NKJV

*“You will show me the path of life;  
In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore”.*

Today I “pick” one of Holy Spirit's fruits – JOY – to inspect and ‘taste’. There is complete joy in God's presence. Do I celebrate this gift of such abundance? Do I savour it? Do I seek to taste it and pursue it? Do I seek to share it with others?

### Romans 15:13

*“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”.*

In the Bible the word Joy is often partnered with the verb ‘to fill’ – a filling that is like a continuous flowing – a fountain within. It comes from God – as a gift. It is a joy that has a fullness when we are in the presence of the Lord. The more I spend time in the Lord's presence the greater is the filling, and flowing, of joy.

The deeper I look at the fruit of joy the more I am drawn to the joy above all joys that we glimpse in Hebrews chapter 12 verse 2:

*“ ... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”.*

Is this the joy of ‘oneness’ that Jesus prayed for in John 17?

Is this the joy of reconciliation with our creator God?

Is this the joy of obedience?

Is this the joy of the Bridegroom anticipating the prepared bride?

In John 15:9-11 Jesus said:

*“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup> “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full”.*

OBEDIENCE is essential to loving God and abiding in God’s love.

Do I ponder on, and celebrate, how much joy I can bring to Jesus by my obedience?

Do I ponder on how much of the ‘joy of the Lord’ I experience when I obey him. Do I recognise how it lifts my heart to please him.

*For the joy set before him he endured the cross - Jesus view of joy transports our understanding of joy into an eternal discovery. There is so much to discover, explore, learn, celebrate, and share with one of the fruits of the Spirit that we have within because of the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.*

[Pause]

### **I Listen**

*Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:8-9*

And

### Philippians 2:1-2

*“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, <sup>2</sup> fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind”.*

[Pause]

## **I Pray**

Today I particularly thank you, Holy Trinity, for the Joy of my salvation! I join the psalmist in Psalm 95 verse 1 who declared: *Come, let us sing for **joy** to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.*

I celebrate the fruit of joy that comes from your indwelling presence Holy Spirit.

Oh, Holy Spirit, the simplicity of agreeing with, and examining, your fruit grows a desire within me to 'take' a different 'fruit' regularly to look at it with you to see how I can know this aspect of you more deeply so that I can grow further in producing it and sharing it with others. I long to celebrate better your love and your joy, your peace, your patience, your kindness, your goodness, your faithfulness along with your gentleness and your self-control.

Dear Holy Spirit I choose to treasure you and your fruit. Each fruit is a revelation of your nature, your essence. Help me to cooperate with you in all aspect of growing and producing more of your fruit within, to cherish every precious gift, and to share each fruit with others. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.