



# PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD



## SCRIPTURE

*Galatians 5:22-23, NRSV*

### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

There is no law against such things.

## REFLECTION: JOY

*By Rev. Daniel Foster*

As a local church pastor I had the privilege of leading a congregation that sponsored well over 100 children in a small village in Kenya. This was done in conjunction with World Vision. As part of our sponsorship I travelled to that village to witness first hand the work World Vision was doing as a result of our support.

It was awe inspiring to see what was accomplished in terms of water acquisition, improved schools, etc. But what really inspired me was the joy so evident in people we encountered. This was especially so in the worship services we attended. Men, women, and children would walk literally for miles, in oppressive heat, to get to the service center. Worship was anything but a "sixty minutes and you're out" kind of experience. There was heavenly singing, jubilant dancing, and clear passion for the Lord they came to exalt. And all of it was saturated with joy.

Joy that didn't come from material possessions, beautiful homes, nice cars, or a secure 401K. It came from a deep connection with the Risen Savior.

*Cont.*

Sometimes I think the most difficult place to be a committed Christian is in the United States. We simply have it too easy, have too much, and take way too much for granted. Because of that we lose touch with where real joy comes from.

## PRAYER

Bring us back to you, Lord, the wellspring of genuine joy. Amen.