

This week we are finishing up our study on joy.

Last week we looked at how being so totally connected to God brings joy in our hearts. Because we are the branches and being one with the vine, we will produce fruit which causes His children to thrive and the fruit will remain.

So this week we look at the nature of true joy. The source of joy comes from ALL of who God is.

God: The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit

The nature of true joy comes from:

### 1. The Father:

#### Scripture

- **Proverbs 8:32** (NLT)

<sup>32</sup> "And so, my children,<sup>[a]</sup> listen to me for all who follow my ways are joyful."

- a. The heart of the Father speaks clearly here as He calls us His children...and He says that He gives joy to those that follow his ways.
- b. Obedient children are a joy to their father and He desires us to be obedient so that we would be protected, and cared for.
- c. Obedience does not demand a reason for being obedient, it is a choice and a complete trust knowing that the Father has good things for you and is setting you up for success. His love is unconditional. As Christians we need to stop putting conditions on God and allow Him to be God.

Son: <sup>0</sup>If you keep My commandments [if you continue to obey My instructions], you will abide in My love and live on in it, just as I have obeyed My Father's commandments and live on in His love.

### 2. The Son:

#### Scripture

- **John 15:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments [if you continue to obey My instructions], you will abide in My love and live on in it, just as I have obeyed My Father's commandments and live on in His love. <sup>11</sup>I have told you these things, that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing.

- a. Once again Jesus is talking about obeying the Father's instructions, His promise to us is that obeying brings abiding and abiding brings joy...and that our JOY may be complete and overflowing.

There is a succession that happens here of which the result is joy, (there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus).

Joy abides in us and we find absolute peace and confidence when we know we are in a state of being right, (righteousness), with God.

We do not have to feel guilty, or condemned, but come with full assurance that He places His desires in us to be obedient children and sons.

- b. Living a life of obedience is not difficult, because it is not a life of works, it's a life of abiding in Him.

A Branch does not have to work at being fruitful, it just is because it's connected to the source of life.

When we are connected to our Source of Joy, Jesus, we will be joyful. He is our life-source and our Vine. Nothing we have to "do" ..but we just need to "be" connected..we will grow..and find the Joy of obeying is the joy of abiding!

### 3. The Holy spirit:

#### Scripture

- **Romans 15:13** (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- a. God of hope fills us with joy and peace as we trust in Him (again trusting and just "being" brings joy and peace).
- b. There is nothing we need to do in this verse to earn the joy and peace. It is simple belief in Jesus that makes this happen.
- c. As a child learns to trust their parent's word, especially when it comes to something they have never done, like riding a bike, a child is filled with hope knowing that they can trust their fathers word and instructions even though fear may try to hold them back from trying.
- d. The Fathers encouragement and Hope brings the child joy and peace and once they have successfully conquered the challenge through careful instructions, they now feel empowered and overflow with joy.
- e. Hoping to ride the bike now turns to absolute joy.
- f. The Power of the Holy Spirit is here to help us and overflow us with hope, (and all of the kingdom).

In order to overflow, there must be an indwelling of something in excess.

Overflowing with hope and joy, will spill out to others around you and you will be fruitful in your life.

We also see that the Holy Spirit gives us His Fruit.

#### Scripture

- **Galations 5:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

- g. When we are abiding in the Vine and obeying our Father, the Holy Spirit is our helper and gives us all we need to live godly, joyful, peaceful lives and not for ourselves but for others.

As we learn to be givers of the fruit within us, we will be more fruitful and have more joy.

We are promised joy which comes out of Love. You can't separate any of these aspects of the Fruit of the Spirit from the other. They are all connected and stem from each other.

Love is the key, and once you find Love, you will have joy, peace, etc...

### Reasons for joy:

1. Salvation:

#### Scripture

- **Isaiah 12:3**

<sup>3</sup>Therefore with joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation.

2. Forgiveness:

#### Scripture

- **Psalms 51:7-8**

<sup>7</sup>Make me pure by sprinkling me with hyssop plant. Then I will be clean. Wash me. Then I will be whiter than snow. <sup>8</sup> Let me hear you say, "Your sins are forgiven." That will bring me joy and gladness. Let the body you have broken be glad.

3. Personal well-being:

#### Scripture

- **1 Chronicles 12:40**

<sup>40</sup>Also, their neighbors from as far away as Issachar, Zebulun and Naphtali came bringing food on donkeys, camels, mules and oxen. There were plentiful supplies of flour, fig cakes, raisin cakes, wine, olive oil, cattle and sheep, for there was joy in Israel.

4. For God's protection:

#### Scripture

- **Psalms 5:11-12**

<sup>11</sup>But let all those who go to you for safety be glad. Let them always sing with joy. Spread your cover over them and keep them safe. Then those who love you will be glad because of you. <sup>12</sup> Lord, you bless those who do what is right. Like a shield, your loving care keeps them safe.

5. Life in the Presence Of God:

## Scripture

• **Psalm 16:11**

<sup>11</sup>You always show me the path that leads to life. You will fill me with joy when I am with you. You will give me endless pleasures at your right hand.

6. Our names in the book of Life:

## Scripture

• **Luke 10:20**

<sup>20</sup>However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

7. For miraculous healing:

## Scripture

• **Acts 8:7-8**

<sup>7</sup>For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> So there was great joy in that city.

8. For the privilege of being able to preach Christ:

## Scripture

• **Philippians 1:18**

<sup>18</sup>But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice.

9. For one sinner who repents:

## Scripture

• **Luke 15:7-10**

<sup>7</sup>I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

10. For the wedding of the Lamb:

## Scripture

• **Revelations 19:7**

<sup>7</sup>Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

In conclusion, there is no greater joy than to know we are forgiven, restored, seated in heavenly places with Him.

We are not called to a defeated life.

We are more than conquerors, the victory of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, lives in this temple. The temple made of clay, which God created, for His very purposes, that we would carry His glory as priests representing His Kingdom on this earth.

No greater joy could man ever have than to serve, walk with, have fellowship with, the creator of the Universe, Yahweh Himself, God Almighty.

Let your hearts be filled with Joy and overflow with the abundance that the deposit of the Holy Spirit in you. Amen

Next week we will be looking at the revealed knowledge of God and responding to revelation.

Unless we respond to revelation we cannot release revelation. Now that we have knowledge, it is time to respond to it and activate the Word of God in our hearts.