

MORE

WEEK 2: JOY

WEEK 1: ACCOUNTABILITY FOLLOW UP

How well did you follow through with what you heard from God about Love?

INTRO

Today, we're diving into the second fruit of the Spirit, "Joy". Life can feel like an emotional rollercoaster full of ups and downs, and joy can often feel fleeting or dependent on our circumstances. But biblical joy is something much deeper. It's not just a moment of happiness, it's a steady, unshakable gladness rooted in our relationship with God. Joy flows from knowing who God is, trusting in His promises, and walking with Him daily.

BIG IDEA

If you were to be put on trial for being a Christian, what evidence would you be able to present to a courtroom proving your devotion to Christ? Paul can help us answer that question by providing a list of nine virtues, the fruit of the Spirit, in Galatians 5:22-23. They demonstrate the attributes of a mature disciple of Christ.

Last week, we covered love, and we learned that love is reciprocal, meaning that God first loves us, and as a result, we are able to love Him and others. Love is the primary virtue from which all other virtues flow.

This week, we are covering Joy. During this Sunday's message, Pastor Darren defined joy as "A deep experience of gladness, one that is produced deep in your soul."



OPENING DISCUSSION



Hebrews 12:2 says, "Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

This verse shows us that Jesus was able to endure the suffering of the cross by looking forward to the joy that was set before Him. The joy set before Him was defeating sin and death. Knowing what He was about to do would cause Him much suffering, it also created a deep experience of gladness, knowing His actions would ultimately redeem us.

1. Describe a time in your life where you felt a deep sense of gladness found deep in your soul?

READ

- Philippians 4:4
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- Psalm 32:11
- Psalm 126:5
- John 15:1-11
- James 1:12
- Psalm 16:11

APPLICATION

We can't create the emotion of joy, but we are connected to the vine, and its Jesus who is the One to create that joy in us, which is a virtue of a mature believer.

1. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your level of joy?

2. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your level of abiding in Christ? (Abide: spending time with God in prayer and the reading of His Word.)

In the message, we heard Pastor Darren quote R.C. Sproul, who mentions that the way we spell joy is important. According to Jesus, we spell it like this:

J.O.Y (Jesus, Others, You)

And not

Y.O.J (You, Others, Jesus)



1. Can you think of a time when you got the order wrong and lived out YOJ (You, Others, Jesus)? What were the results of that?

2. We heard from Pastor Darren that Joy turns envy into contentment. Joy turns greed into generosity. Joy turns grumbling into gratitude. Joy turns “I have to” into “I get to.” Joy turns fear into faith. Which of these statements do you need God’s help with the most, and why?

TAKEAWAY

John Piper said, “If you want to be a radically loving person, you must pursue your own joy.” This statement may seem counterintuitive to most; however, the joy he’s speaking of is not that of our flesh; it is joy in the Lord. Just like what we read in Hebrews 12:2 and James 1:12. It is an emotion we get from being connected to the Vine, Jesus, that then allows the branches of joy and love to grow out of us and be shown back to Jesus and others around us. Psalms 16:11 confirms that by saying, “You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”



LISTENING TO THE LORD

1. What does God want you to know about joy today?

2. If being connected to the vine is the secret to becoming joyful, what steps can you take this week to abide in Christ that are different from what you are already doing?

