

## ***Our Joyful Living is Connected to Our Fruit Bearing***

### **Opening Discussion:**

*What is joy?*

*What brings you joy in your life?*

*What causes you to struggle for joy?*

*What are you hoping to gain in our time together?*

My aim today:

1. Creating a hopeful expectation for experiencing joy in Christ.
2. Understanding the connection between experiencing joy and bearing fruit.
3. Looking at some biblical "fruit" in the lives of followers of Jesus.

### **Expect to Experience Real Joy in Christ:**

God's Word is full of promises for His people.

## John 15:1-11

[1] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. [2] Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. [3] Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. [4] Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. [5] I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. [7] If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. [8] By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. [9] As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. [10] 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. [11] These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

***What is God showing you?***

What God has been showing me:

## **The Connection Between Experiencing Joy and Bearing Fruit:**

Identity and Purpose:

*"The Christian need not have an identity crisis. Jesus tells us who we are and why we are here. We are branches, and he is the Vine. We are here to bear fruit. Once you accept this simple fact, you are on the way to making your life meaningful and useful."*

*Warren W. Wiersbe - Abide*

So what are we? We are a branch.

Christians are not meant to earn salvation, but they are meant to produce upon salvation.

Ephesians 2:8–10

*Where is there danger in thinking of our identity in terms of being fruit producers?*

*Where is there danger in not thinking of our identity in terms of being fruit producers?*

So what is the joy connection?

*How would you connect our experiencing joy with our bearing fruit?*

## **What is Biblical Fruitfulness:**

### **1. Holiness**

Romans 6:22 – Fruit of Sanctification

2 Corinthians 3:18 – Likeness of Christ

Luke 3:8, 2 Corinthians 7:1 – Turning from Sin

Holiness come from more than human effort. – 1 Corinthians 15:10

## **2. *Character***

Galatians 5 – Spirit enabled character.

Colossians 1:10, Ephesians 2:10, Matthew 5:16 – Often manifests in our good works.

## **3. *Gratitude & Praise to God***

Hebrews 13:15, Hebrews 12:28-29

## **4. *Generosity***

Acts 2:44-45, 1 John 3:17, Romans 15:28

## **5. *Evangelism & Discipleship***

Romans 1:13, Mark 1:17, 2 Corinthians 5:20, John 4:35, Zechariah 3:2

**Next Week:** Our Fruit bearing is Connected to Our Abiding