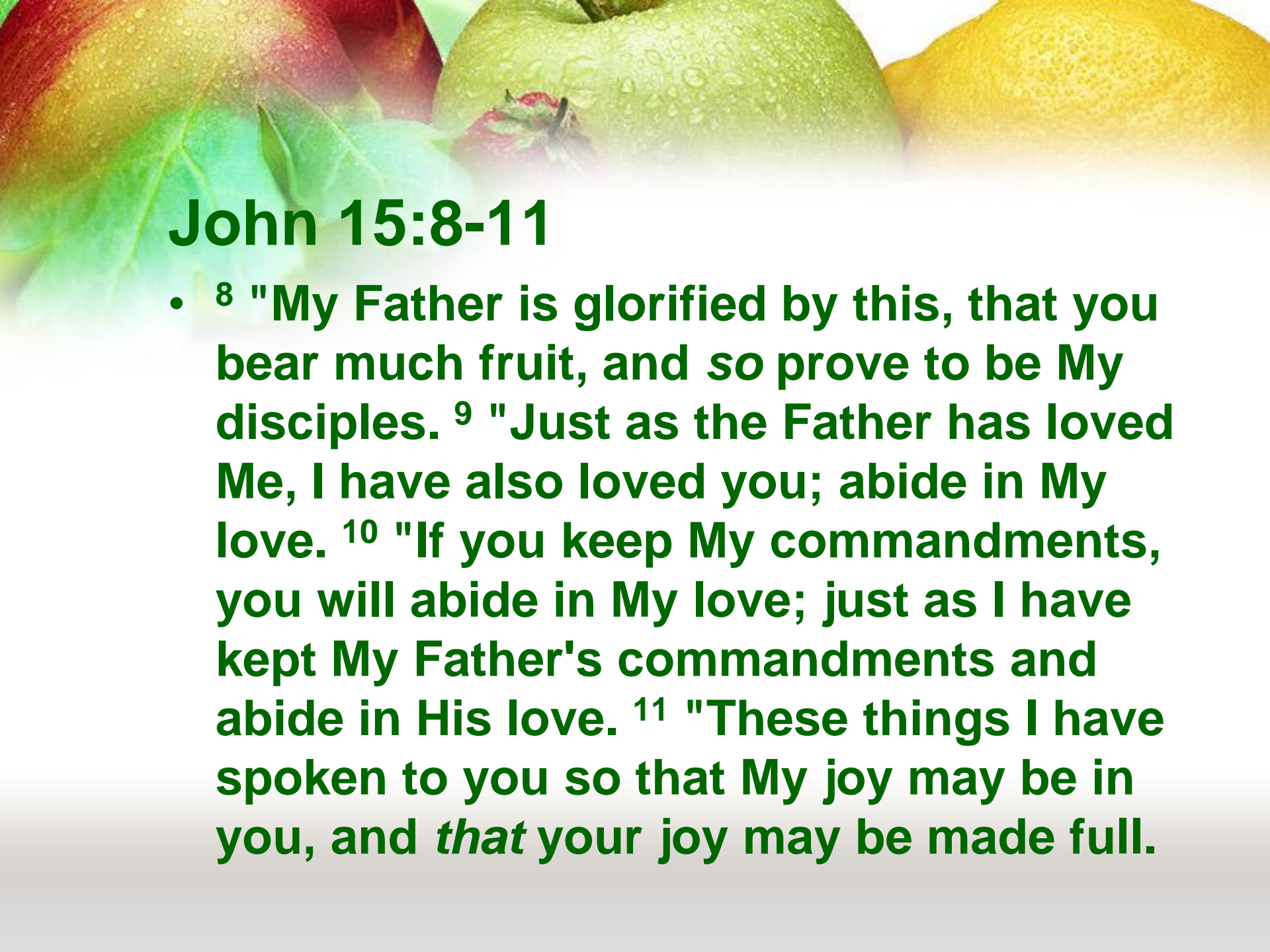




# The Fruit of the Spirit Joy



## John 15:8-11

- **8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also 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 so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.**



# Introduction

- If we remain in Christ, then we will remain in his love. The result of this is joy. And the fruit of the spirit is joy.
- We need to live our life, and our life together, connected to the true vine. We need to bear the fruit of the spirit.
- Christ's teaching about "the vine and branches" tells us a couple of things about joy:




## The Vine & Branches:

- 1. Joy is directed outward.
  - He does not say, “do this and you will be joyous” or “I am doing this so I can be joyous.”
  - The loving, vine & branches, obeying Christ, asking & receiving relationship leads to a by-product: Christ takes joy in us and our joy is made complete because we take joy in him.
  - Joy is something altogether different that entertainment and pleasure.



## The Vine & Branches:

- 1. Joy is directed outward.
- 2. Joy can thrive even in suffering and difficulty.
  - Notice that branches are sometimes pruned so that they will become more fruitful.
  - A survey of the apostle's teachings on joy will show you that joy can emerge in the midst of great difficulty.

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- **“Consider it nothing but joy when you face difficulties of any kind, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2-4**
    - **Is there joy in the trial itself?**



## 1 Peter 4:13

- *but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.*



## The Vine & Branches:

- 1. Joy is directed outward.
- 2. Joy can thrive even in suffering and difficulty.
- Mature and complete! Joy grows out of the stoniest and harshest of soils, but it is one the sweetest of fruits and if you have ever experienced joy grown in suffering or difficult circumstance.



## Cultural Hindrances to Joy

- 1. Joy is too often confused with pleasure.
- 2. We are bombarded by attempts to manufacture desire.
  - *This becomes most detrimental to cultivating joy when the cycle of manufacturing and gratifying desire becomes an endless pursuit of happiness.*
- 3. And our culture too often equates happiness with excess.



## Cultural Hindrances to Joy

- 1. Joy is too often confused with pleasure.
- 2. We are bombarded by attempts to manufacture desire.
- 3. And our culture too often equates happiness with excess.
- 4. Finally, joy is choked out by the weeds of fear and anxiety.



## How do we cultivate joy?

- 1. Joy grows by knowing your God, because of who He is and what He has done.
  - Who God Is?



## **Psalm 32:11**

- Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.



## **Psalm 40:16**

- Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let those who love Your salvation say continually, "The LORD be magnified!"



## **Psalm 97:1**

- The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; Let the many islands be glad.



## **Philippians 4:4**

- Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I will say, rejoice!



## **1 Peter 1:8**

- and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,



## How do we cultivate joy?

- 1. Joy grows by knowing your God, because of who He is and what He has done.
  - Who God Is?
  - What God Has Done!



## **Psalm 66:6**

- He turned the sea into dry land; They passed through the river on foot; There let us rejoice in Him!



## **Psalm 119:162**

- I rejoice at Your word, As one who finds great spoil.



## Psalm 71:19

- For Your righteousness, O God, *reaches* to the heavens, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You?



## **Psalm 126:2-3**

- Then our mouth was filled with laughter And our tongue with joyful shouting; Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; We are glad."



## **Job 5:8-9 & Job 37:5**

- <sup>8</sup> "But as for me, I would seek God,  
And I would place my cause before  
God; <sup>9</sup> Who does great and  
unsearchable things, Wonders without  
number.
- "God thunders with His voice  
wondrously, Doing great things which  
we cannot comprehend."



## **Psalm 18:2**

- The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.



## **Psalm 18:46**

- The LORD lives, and  
blessed be my rock; And  
exalted be the God of my  
salvation,



## **Psalm 37:39**

- But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in time of trouble.



## How do we cultivate joy?

- 1. Joy grows by knowing your God, because of who He is and what He has done.
  - Who God Is?
  - What God Has Done!
- 2. Joy thrives in worship, because joy draws us outside ourselves.



## **Psalm 2:11**

- Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling.



## **Psalm 95:1-2**

- “O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.”



## **Psalm 100:1-2**

- “Shout joyfully to the LORD,  
all the earth. <sup>2</sup> Serve the  
LORD with gladness; Come  
before Him with joyful  
singing.”



## **Psalm 98:4**

- Shout joyfully to the LORD,  
all the earth; Break forth and  
sing for joy and sing praises.



## How do we cultivate joy?

- 1. Joy grows by knowing your God, because of who He is and what He has done.
- 2. Joy thrives in worship, because joy draws us outside ourselves.
- 3. Joy is nurtured by contentment.
  - Without contentment, none of us can experience joy.
  - Discontent family members can rob the joy from the whole family.
  - And discontent church members can rob the joy from a congregation.



# 1 Timothy 6:6

- But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.



## **2 Corinthians 12:10**

- Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.



## **Philippians 4:11**

- Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.



# 1 Timothy 6:8

- If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.



## Hebrews 13:5

- *Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"*



## How do we cultivate joy?

- 1. Joy grows by knowing your God, because of who He is and what He has done.
- 2. Joy thrives in worship, because joy draws us outside ourselves.
- 3. Joy is nurtured by contentment.
- 4. Joy is realized in our freedom from the law.



## **Psalm 9:14**

- That I may tell of all Your praises, That in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in Your salvation.



## **Psalm 13:5**

- But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.



## Conclusion:

- Are you confusing joy is too often with pleasure?
- Are you being bombarded by attempts to manufacture desire?
- Are you equating happiness with excess?
- Is your joy being choked out by the weeds of fear and anxiety?
- Joy grows by knowing your God, because of who He is and what He has done.
- Joy thrives in worship, because joy draws us outside ourselves.
- Joy is nurtured by contentment.
- Joy is realized in our freedom from the law.