

SWEET SUMMER – LIFE FORMED BY THE SPIRIT

“JOY”

SCRIPTURE: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7; GALATIANS 5:22-23;

MATTHEW 5:1-12; HEBREWS 12:1-3; JOHN 15:8-11

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INTRODUCTION

- Week 1 we studied Abide - the unmanufactured life.
- Galatians 1:6-10, “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel...”
- Week 2 we covered the different types of Love.

I. JOY IS DIFFERENT

- Philippians 4:6-7 NLT, “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God’s peace...”
- Joy grows as we bring anxiety into the presence of God – Abide!
- Abiding is the ongoing life of dependence.
- We struggle with joy because our souls are carrying too much alone.
- The invitation is not: “Try harder.”
- The invitation is: “Come back to the vine.”

II. IT IS GROWN

- Galatians 5:22-23 NLT, “But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control...²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives...”
- True joy is never manufactured; it is formed by the Spirit in us.
- For most of us, joy is tied to external conditions.
- But the Spirit forms joy from the inside out.

- If our joy is rooted in circumstances, it will rise and fall when life feels good or bad.

III. IT’S A GIFT

- For 1st Century listeners, Blessed meant – divine joy and perfect happiness - Warren Wiersbe
- Matthew 5:1-12 ESV, ² And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven...”
- A blessed life is not built on comfort; it is built on the presence and faithfulness of God.
- Jesus is describing a life rooted in the Kingdom, where sorrow and joy can coexist.

IV. IT CAN COEXIST

- Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT, “...Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne...”
- Jesus shows us that joy is not the absence of sorrow.
- Joy is the deep confidence that God is still at work, even when it’s painful to obey.
- Formation - Sometimes the Spirit forms joy in us by removing a burden. But sometimes the Spirit forms joy by rooting us more deeply in Jesus while we carry it.
- The Unformed Life - Some of us are interpreting pain, suffering, and struggle as the absence of God.

CLOSE

- John 15:8-11 ESV, “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit...⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love... These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”
- Philippians 4:4-7 NLT, ⁴ Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice!...pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God’s peace...”
- Joy is the deep and steady confidence that comes from abiding in Christ.