

# John 15:7-11

## The Secret to Joy in the Christian Life Isn't...a Secret

### Happiness < Joy

Positive emotional feelings based on pleasant happenings/circumstances

### Joy > Happiness

The inner contentment of the soul which is actively occupied with Jesus Christ-Who He is, what He has done and what He will do. Joy can be accompanied by a range of emotions depending on one's personality and circumstances-from loud ecstasies to quiet stability.

### John 15:1-6 Last Week

Believers are to abide in Christ...

...so that we can produce spiritual fruit v1-5a

...so that we can avoid spiritual mediocrity and divine discipline v5b-6

### John 15:7-11 This Week

Believers are to abide in Christ...

...so that we can experience spiritual reality in its fullness v7-11

## As Believers Abide in Christ We Can Experience Fullness of Prayer v7

### Warning Label

Prayer is not a blank check (God is not our debtor or our servant).

Prayer is an open book (believers who are abiding in Christ pray "not my will but Thy will be done")

### Prayer is a Grace Channel of Communication

through which believers are to seek and submit to God's will, as part of the process God has included in His plan for the outworking of His will in time. Abiding in Christ (recognizing and responding the heart to the One who has saved us) purifies both the manner and the motive of our prayers-such that we truly/fully seek and submit to His will during and after we pray.

## **As Believers Abide in Christ We Can Experience Fullness of Discipleship v8**

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so demonstrate that you are My disciples. Bearing fruit (living a spiritually dynamic life of an ever increasingly Christ-like character) is an outward demonstration of a believer consistently abiding in Christ (see also John 13:35)

## **As Believers Abide in Christ We Can Experience Fullness of Love v9-10**

Loving Obedience to Christ =the Outward Expression of Abiding in Christ (see also 1 John 5:1-5)

## **As Believers Abide in Christ We Can Experience Fullness of Joy v11**

These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

Joy: not primarily an emotion (that is “happiness” based on + happenings around us). Joy is the inner contentment of the soul actively responding to/appreciating our Jesus Christ: Who He is, what He has done and what He will do. Joy can be accompanied by a range of emotions from loud ecstasies to quiet stability depending on our personality and circumstances.

Fullness of Joy: the settled contentment of the soul actively engaged in a substantial and growing experiential knowledge of Christ (John 17:13; 1 John 1:4, 2:28-3:3).

## **Happiness is Overrated!**

**Good News:** Joy is every believer’s birthright in of Jesus Christ

**Better News:** Fullness of joy is possible for believers

**Best News:** This is not about who we are/what we do-but about us recognizing everything we are/do must be centered in/on Him