

## Resources to Consider on joy

Lewis, C.S. *The Joyful Christian* (selections from his writings)

Piper, John. *When I Don't Desire God*.

Newbell, Trillia. *Enjoy: Finding the Freedom to Delight Daily in God's Good Gifts*.

Jesus himself—and all that God is for us in him—is our great reward, nothing less. “I am the bread of life. . . . If anyone thirsts, let him come to me” (John 6:35; 7:37). Salvation is not mainly the forgiveness of sins, but mainly the fellowship of Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:9). Forgiveness gets everything out of the way so this can happen. If this fellowship is not all-satisfying, there is no great salvation. If Christ is gloomy or even calmly stoical, eternity will be a long, long sigh.

The glory and grace of Jesus is that he is, and always will be, indestructibly happy. I say it is his glory, because gloom is not glorious. And I say it is his grace, because the best thing he has to give us is his joy. “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:11; see also 17:13). It would not be fully gracious of Jesus simply to increase my joy to its final limit and then leave me short of his. My capacities for joy are very confined. So Christ not only offers himself as the divine object of my joy, but pours his capacity for joy into me, so that I can enjoy him with the very joy of God. This is glory, and this is grace.

- John Piper, *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*, 35-36.

Nothing worth having comes without some kind of fight  
You gotta kick at the darkness till it bleeds daylight.

**Bruce Cockburn, *Lovers in a Dangerous Time***

# GALATIANS 5



## THE FRUITFUL LIFE

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*  
**Galatians 5:22-23**

What does real growth and change look like? The Bible describes an organic process in which the quality of Jesus' own life is cultivated, by his Spirit, in the lives of his followers. This quality of life is not a list of virtues that we accomplish but “fruit” produced in us by the Holy Spirit as we actively delight in and rest in Jesus. While this fruit has many dimensions, each dimension grows in relationship to the others to increasingly form us as a whole person.

This “fruit” is the type of life we were originally designed to live but is now produced against the backdrop of a world marred by sin. As this fruit develops, it blesses those around us and creates a community that is a glimpse of the world to come—a community filled with individuals who are both unique in themselves and being conformed to the image of Jesus.

Join us this Fall as we explore how this life of Jesus is cultivated in the life of his people and how this may lead you to a more Christlike version of yourself.

# Indestructible Joy

October 2]9, 2023 | Galatians 5:22-23 | Pastor Roger Williams

## The Holy Spirit cultivates an indestructible joy in Jesus's people.

### 1. Joy is cultivated through “spiritual sight.”

#### 2 Corinthians 3:18-4:6

<sup>16</sup>But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>**And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**

<sup>41</sup>Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>**For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

### 2. We behold a Jesus who is marked by indestructible joy.

#### Luke 10

<sup>17</sup>The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” <sup>18</sup>And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup>Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. <sup>20</sup>Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but **rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**”

<sup>21</sup>In that same hour **Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit** and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

#### Psalm 40

<sup>8</sup>**I delight** to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”

#### Hebrews 12

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>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.

### 3. Jesus' joy takes root in, through, and despite circumstances.

#### John 15

... <sup>5</sup>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...<sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>**These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.**

#### 1 Peter 1

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>**In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup>obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**