Lesson 2: Wednesday March 23, 2022

Teacher: Joshua Kirstine

Fruit of the Spirit- Joy

**Galatians 5:22-23** …the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control;

**The Fruit of the Spirit**

1. Pastor talked about the bibles reference to “fruit” as character . These are the attributes or core characteristics of a person.

Why is it important that we see that these are changes of core character that God makes in us and that they are not just external things we are to try to produce or uphold outside of Him?

1. Pastor reminded us that the while we can study them individually, the fruit of the spirit are together and not separate in that you have the Spirit and therefore His growing attributes in you or you don’t. You don’t pick your favorite three and then ditch the rest or say, “I am good at this but not this”. \* Talk about this more as a group. We want to continue to help them see that FOTS is not something they cherry pick or do on their own. It is the evidence and work of the Spirit in them or it’s something all together different.

**GROWIGN INTO CHRIST** -Read Ephesians 4:15-16 and John 15:5 again.

1. We must see that we don’t grow the fruit of the Spirit. The Spirit does. Therefore we don’t leave lessons like this today and say I just need to work to be more Joyful. That is secular and failed thinking. NO we need a source within that gives us joy and grows that joy in and through us.

This is why our growth, our focus, our abiding, our time is not into producing an external result ( it is not growth out) it is growth in. Into Jesus. Abiding in Him, treasuring Him, trusting Him, growing in His truths. This is how we cling to the vine best which sets the table for the best work that He does in growing the fruit of the Spirit in us!!

1. Jesus says that we are the “branches”. Why is it God’s essential design for us to abide in, cling to, be reoriented to Christ in community and not try to do this alone? How are you doing at this in your everyday life?

**Joy**

1. Why is joy better than happiness?
2. Why is it that true joy is only able to be experienced by those redeemed in Christ?

If you are born again in Christ, then share a quick testimony of how you have come to experience the fruit of true JOY and why it is better than your old pursuit of happiness?

David said, The LORD is my shepherd,  **I shall not be in want. - Psalm 23:1**

1. What does this have to do with our Joy? \*\*\*hint: if truly satisfied in Christ then I have reason to rejoice (to be joyful) despite my circumstances. Whereas, when I am not satisfied, then I am constantly chasing something to be happy in.

**Joy in the midst of suffering**- Read John 16:20-24 again

1. Pastor spent some time break down the different points Jesus is making here as they relate to joy. What stood out to you and why?
2. Before you wrap up: Take a moment and talk about why the testimony of our Joy in Christ (especially when we are suffering) is so potent for others who see our lives.

\*Spend time in prayer and please dismiss by 8pm.