

## Men's Breakout Session

## "Manhood Measured by Joy"

Saturday Morning

**INTRO** .... Successful Manhood depends on what we are using as our measuring device

What if these areas of our lives were "MEASURED BY JOY"? What if we understood that what God really wanted for our roles and activities as men, was more than just "REPORTING FOR DUTY"? ... What if we understood that JOY is What Makes These Areas of Responsibility Most Effective?

### What is More Effective in Leading and Blessing Your Wife?

... GROUCHY EXHAUSTION (at the end of the work day) or ENTHUSIASTIC Engagement  
... NEGATIVE COMPLAINING (about "how things are") or a GLAD HEART

### What is More Effective in Ministering the Gospel to Your Children?

.... GRUMPY DOCTRINE or JOY ENCOMPASSED TRUTH  
.... MORAL INTOLERANCE & OUTRAGE (@ their behavior) or JOYFUL PASSION FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Remember...

Joy Is Not Optional — If Our Lives Lack Joy, then We Are Falling Short of God's Glory!!

Deut 28:47-48 Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things; 48 therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you,

John 15:11 " These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full .

This verse in John brings us back to the premise that Our Experience of Joy is Dependent on the Object of Our Faith.

What we believe about our lives — our past, our present, and our future— is Controlling the Flow of Joy in our lives.

Our minds cannot Actively Believe the Wrong Things, and at the same time our experience be full of Joy.

How Can I Increase Joy in My Life?

## **GOD'S PATHWAY TO JOY** ..... Understand How God is Increasing Joy in Our Lives

Jn 15:11 "THESE THINGS I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

**Jn 15:1-13** .... The PATHWAY to JOY - Pruning->Abiding-> Loving ...

- Jn 15:11 ... links our joy to HIS JOY— for our joy to be full, God must be having Joy. What is it that brings joy and pleasure to God? .... This is my pathway to my own pleasure

- Jn 15:8 ... "by this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples"

### **GOD'S JOY IS IN OUR BEARING OF FRUIT**

*"Brethren and sisters in Christ are we bringing forth much fruit unto God? Are you called to suffer? Then do you, in your suffering, bring forth the fruit of patience? Or, are you strong and in robust health? Then are you, with that health and strength, rendering to the Lord the fruit of holy activity? ... as the gardener is when, having planted a tree, and digged about it, and manured it, and pruned it, he sees it at last covered with golden fruit. He is pleased with his fruitful tree, and Christ is pleased with his fruit-bearing disciples. Are we making Christ glad in this fashion? If so, our own joy shall to be full."* Charles Spurgeon, "Christ's Joy and Ours"

Are You Called to .....?

Are You Called to Sonship at This Season? .... Living Under the Authority of Parents

.... Are You Bearing Fruit? — Submission, Honoring, Serving?

Are You Called to Be a Student? ....

.... Are You Bearing Fruit? — Discipline, Excellence,

Are You Called to Singleness at This Time?

.... Are You Bearing Fruit? — Serving Others at a Greater Level, Increasing in Disciplines, Buffeting Your Body (and its appetites),

Are You Called to be a Husband?

.... Are You Bearing Fruit? .... Caring, Nurturing, Romancing, Leading, Instructing, Communicating

Are You Called to be a Father?

.... Are You Bearing Fruit? ..... Influencing, Training, Growing in Affection, Imparting Wisdom

Are You Called to a Job, a Business, a Ministry?

... Are You Bearing Fruit? .... Excellence, Punctual, Responsible, Increased Effectiveness

— REMEMBER, Joy is Connected to Fruit Bearing. When Fruit Bearing Ceases, so will Joy.

"God's Pathway to Joy is Going to Be Things That Increase Fruit Production"

## (1) PRUNING ... JN 15:1-2

*“ At first sight, it seems to us that there is nothing consoling in such words as those, they sound sharply in our ears, and make us start, and be afraid, and ask ourselves, ‘Are we bearing fruit?’ Well, brethren and sisters, but such heart searching as that is eminently beneficial, and tends to deepen in us true joy. Christ would not have us rejoice with the false joy of presumption, so he takes the sharp knife, and cuts that joy away. Joy on a false basis would prevent us from having true joy; and therefore, the Master gives us the sharp and cutting word that we may be sound in the faith, that we may be sound in the life of God, and that so the joy we may get may be worth having...” Charles Spurgeon, “Christ’s Joy and Ours”*

### **LIFE COMES COMPLETE WITH PRUNING SHEARS**

*“ PRUNING = the removal or reduction of certain plant parts that are not required, that are no longer effective, or that are of no use to the plant. It is done to supply additional energy for the development of flowers, fruits, and limbs that remain on the plant. .... if we truly "love" our plants we will take the appropriate action to ensure that they will be capable of peak production performance when the time comes. This "appropriate action" to which I refer is pruning. Homeowners must be brave! Pruning a "loved" tree or vine is sort of like spanking your naughty child; you know it's going to be best for all parties concerned.” Texas A&M Agricultural Dept.*

*– Have we ever stopped to consider that the Things We Find Hard, The Challenges, The Frustrations, The Failure Points We Experience— may All Be the “FEEL” of Pruning Going On In Our Lives*

#### 3 Pruning Questions of Life

1. What is God cutting out of your life that is “OF NO USE”
2. What is God Doing to make sure you are “CAPABLE OF PEAK PRODUCTION” of fruit?
3. Who/What are the SHEARS He is Using?

- **The TEEN YEARS**
- **BEING SINGLE**
- **BEING A HUSBAND**

*“ The real transforming work of marriage is the twenty-four-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week commitment. This is the crucible that grinds and shapes us into the character of Jesus Christ. Marriage calls us to an entirely new and selfless life. This insight occurred to me some years ago when Lisa and the kids were traveling while I had to stay home and work. For the first time ever, it seemed, I had a free Saturday. For as long as I could remember, I had awakened each weekend and talked over with Lisa what the family would do; I almost didn’t know how to ask the question— what do I want to do? Yet that was the question I had asked myself as a single man virtually every Saturday before I was married. .... Any situation that calls me to confront my selfishness has enormous spiritual value, and I slowly began to understand that the real purpose of marriage may not be happiness as much as it is holiness. Not that God has anything against happiness, or that happiness and holiness are by nature mutually exclusive, but looking at marriage through the lens of holiness began to put it into an entirely new perspective for me.” Gary Thomas, “Sacred Marriage”, p. 22-23*

— I Would Say, "Holiness as a Means to Happiness". Is God Using Marriage as SHEARS to Prune away things in me that are KEEPING ME FROM JOY?

- **BEING A FATHER**

“QUOTE: “Sacred Parenting”, p. 12-13

## (2) ABIDING ... JN 15:4-10

**Abide** = to remain, dwell, continue

- It Stresses Our ONGOING DEPENDENCE of Divine Abilities that Must Be Received!

- **IN HIM** = Remaining and Continuing in Union to Christ

True Joy is a Spiritual Quality & Experience — It is “Produced in the Branch” but it is “Drawn from the Vine” — No Branch that is Detached can Bear This Fruit

True Joy Begins with SALVATION

— Salvation brings the INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT — Whose Fruit is JOY. .... Joy is a Supernatural Work and Impartation  
... “Apart from me you can do nothing” — There is a natural realm where we may be very busy, but in the Spiritual Realm, which really matters, we can do nothing apart from HIM.

- **IN HIS WORD** = Remaining and Continuing Under the Influence of His Word  
.... “These things I have spoken to you, ....”
- **IN PRAYER** ... v. 7
- **IN HIS LOVE** = Remaining and Continuing is the Much Needed Reception of Divine Love and Acceptance

## (3) LOVING OTHERS ... JN 15:12-13

Love lived at a level of Self-Sacrifice

... Interesting, that it is Usually Our Thought, that Self-Sacrifice [inconvenience, disruption, interruptions, etc. from what we desired to do, rather than what another desires us to do] is Keeping Us from Joy, rather than providing us a pathway to joy!