

“Womanhood Measured by Joy”

Intro ~ Measuring a Woman's Roles and Activities by Joy

JOY IS NOT OPTIONAL

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

John 15:7-11

What we believe about our lives – Our Past, Our Present and Our Future IS controlling the flow of joy in our lives.

What are we putting our faith in when it comes to our circumstances?

Our minds cannot ACTIVELY believe the wrong things and at the same time our experience be “full of Joy”.

IN ORDER TO BELIEVE WHAT GOD HAS SAID, WE MUST FIRST KNOW WHAT HE HAS SAID

John 15:11 “These things I have spoken to you so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be made full”

Even in the immediate context of Jn 15, there are GOOD THINGS that may not always feel good to us at the time:

Jn 15:1-2Pruning for the purpose of increasing fruit

“ 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.

THERE ARE EASY JOYS AND THERE ARE JOYS THAT REQUIRE FAITH

- *The joy in childbirth*....but what about the joy in child discipline?
- *The joy in the wedding day* but what about the joy in Mundane married life
- *The joy in Romance*and the joy in submission
- *The Joy in the New House* ...and the joy in cleaning the old one
- *The joy in being pampered*and the joy in sacrifice and serving
- *The joy in Falling in Love* ...and the joy of OUR FIRST LOVE (enjoying HIM, while you desire marriage)
- *The joy in Youthful Bodies* ...and the joy in Aging Bodies....

So in both the "EASY JOY" and the "JOY THAT REQUIRES FAITH" God is working His great purpose of Pruning us so that there will be increased fruit For the Glory of God!!!

What has God said to Women that we are to believe so that His joy may be full in us:

☛ Being created as Woman

Gen 1:27 "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them"

Gen 2:18 "...it is not good for the man to be alone, I will make a helper suitable for him"

"The man needs the help, the woman needs to help" Douglas Wilson

1 Peter 3:1 "Wives be subject to your husbands...."

Gen 4:1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain.

☛ Being MARRIED

Matt 19:36 Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?" And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who Created them from the beginning made the MALE AND FEMALE, and said, FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

But complete with your marriage licence comes your own set of pruning shears — it's choosing to embrace a life of dying to individualism and embracing life as a couple. It is many times saying "No" to your own desires in order to serve preferences of another.

"One of the best wedding gifts God gave you was a full-length mirror called "YOUR SPOUSE". Had there been a card attached, it would have said, "Here's to helping you discover what you're really like!" Gary Ricucci

Nothing will reveal our selfishness like being married

"God is selfless, and when a man and a woman marry, they are pledging to stop viewing themselves as individuals and start viewing themselves as a unit, as a couple. In marriage, I am no longer free to pursue whatever I want; I am no longer a single man. I am part of a team, and my ambitions, dreams, and energies need to take that into account." Gary Thomas, "Sacred Marriage"

Matt 16:25 For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake, shall find it"

☛ Being A Wife

Titus 2: 3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, That they may encourage the young women to love their husbands,...

There are actually three different usages for the word love found in the NT.

Agape – self sacrificing love

Philandros – tender affectionate love

Eros – sexual expression

Why does scripture encourage women to love their husband in with a philandros love and not agape?

God will use the role of being a wife as a means of pruning away areas of pride, selfishness, unforgiveness as it relates to our husband.

☛ Being a Mother

Ps 127:3 Behold children are a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward

Ps 113:9 He makes the barren woman in the house as a joyful mother of children.

“Moments of unequal joy are coupled with difficult and time consuming tasks”
Dorothy Patterson

But being a mother, however, doesn't come without it's own set of pruning shears.
Built into the dynamic of this joyful role, is challenge, difficulty and even pain.

“If it was going to be easy to raise kids, it never would have started with something called “Labor”. Anonymous

“There's only one way to develop perseverance: we have to surrender to God as we feel pushed past the human breaking point. We have to reach the threshold of exhaustion, and then get pushed even further. One trial can help us deal with fear. Two trials can lead to wisdom. But perseverance? That takes a bundle of difficulties. All of which means that parenting extremely demanding children feeds a spiritual need in our soul— to participate in the crucial discipline of perseverance on which our fruitfulness as believers depends.” Gary Thomas, “Sacred Parenting”, p. 145

What about when we observe patterns of sin in our children? When we've been grieved over our children's poor decisions and choices –any activity of sin in their life?

Prov. 29:5 The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings his mother to shame.

Prov. 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Prov. 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

But these verses not only inform me of the coming need to have to discipline, but they also give me something to Believe—"These things I have said" So that by faith I can have joy.

God has designed the challenges, hardships, and heartaches of parenting to prune away things in us like: pride, impatience, anger, self-righteousness, fear, etc. ... While at the same time working in us love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

Joy Killers & Joy Cultivators

UNBELIEF

BELIEF....

COMPARING

EMBRACING GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

COMPLAINING

GIVING THANKS ...

UNFORGIVENESS ...

FORGIVENESS ...

TIME Magazine's Stumbling on to TRUTH (TIME, Jan 17, 2005, p. A8)

1. *Count Your Blessings* — 2 Peter 1:3-4 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

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

3. Savor Life's Joys — Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

4. Thank a Mentor — Titus 2 women; Elders, pastors, Cov. Group leaders, etc.

5. Learn to Forgive — Col 3:12-17 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

6. Invest Time and Energy in Family and Friends — Phil 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

7. Take Care of Your Body — 1 Tim 4:7-8 discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; 8 for bodily discipline is only of little profit,

8. Develop Strategies for Coping with Stress and Hardships (the Strategy of Trusting God) — Phil 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

TIME has taken a long time to discover what was said a long time ago....

John 15:7-11 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9 "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. 10 "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. 11 "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.