

1st John # 15

“Joy, Joy, Joy down in my Heart”

*John 15:11*

**Greatness in God’s Kingdom is related to service and the greatest of all servants in history, comforts His friends before Himself.**

It is virtually impossible to learn successful comforting principles in the midst of adversity.

*Production in the spiritual life is a result of abiding in Jesus Christ.*

Success in the Christian life is not only a relationship with the Holy Spirit by being filled with the Spirit or walking by means of the Spirit, it’s also abiding in Christ.

**If we choose to apply biblical truth, the Holy Spirit takes our positive decision and uses it to strengthen our souls, producing endurance leading to spiritual maturity and much fruit.**

We make the first choice to be obedient, then after that decision is made, the Holy Spirit uses it to strengthen and edify us, producing endurance, spiritual growth and fruit-production in the spiritual life.

**The keys to John 15 are understanding:**

***1. Our standing before God; 2. His expectation for us.***

The result of understanding our position *in Christ* is a desire to fulfill our expectation to love what He commands as much as we desire what He promises.

**We express impersonal love toward those who may be obnoxious to us by not doing what we want but we still must do what’s best for them.**

In John 15, Jesus sees the 11 as abiding disciples with the pattern being the Son’s abiding relationship with the Father.

*Sanctification makes us ready to serve God, so, salvation doesn’t end our relationship with God, it begins a process for His purpose to be accomplished in us.*

Every choice we make is a test as to apply DVP or HVP and if we do it God’s way, we gain endurance as we abide in fellowship with Christ, by applying His mind.

**In order to get our kids saturated with the Word of God, we must have it to give it.**

In communicating to children, relate everything to the spiritual to get the DVP perspective and don’t just preach but model the best way to handle issues.

*Respect for God is a result of careful obedience to the Word of God.*

The emphasis is on continued repetition to remind them of the very Words of God.

All throughout the Bible, the emphasis is on learning the Word and that produces fruit in us.

**The inner happiness or joy of Jesus Christ is based on God’s character and plan; not on people, circumstances, things or emotions.**

God is life, eternal life; He always existed and has had maximum joy forever, which is not dependent on the successes or failures of His creatures.

*God is omniscient, so from eternity past, He’s known all the knowable and possible for that*

*matter, so our successes or failures have never affected His happiness.*

**The basis for true joy begins at the cross of Christ, so it's impossible for unbelievers to have this joy and stability, but at cross, we don't get all of God's happiness that we can have; it's potential, based on spiritual growth through the processing of biblical truth by abiding in Christ.**

**God designed true joy to be permanent and stabilized  
to provide mastery over any area of confusion, deception or discouragement in life.**

**God's will for us is His expectation for those in perfect standing with Him and it begins with Him saying:**

**"I'd like you to have the same joy that I have!"**

***For believers in Christ, sorrow and persecution  
are temporary but joy is permanent!***

**Everything we're suffering now leads up to a time  
of complete joy that no one can take from us!**

**The joy that Jesus wants us to have in good or bad circumstances is the fulfilling joy He  
experienced  
in doing His Father's will.**