

God's Green Thumb
What God Plants - Grows: **JOY**
John 15 - Galatians 5:22-26

— The world **does not** need more **explanations** about who Jesus is
but more examples of the **difference** Jesus makes (in a life).

John 15

**Jesus' warning against a dry, dead, meaningless life - a life without joy.

— John was likely in his 80's when he wrote this letter.

**The book of John is the Holy Spirit's inspiration
through a Christ follower with decades of life experience.

*5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, **ask whatever you wish**, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you **bear much fruit**, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

*9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that **my joy may be in you** and that **your joy may be complete**. John 15:5-11*

Remain (abide)

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit (5b)

Stay connected and close. Don't forget your home.

Ask and Receive

*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, **ask whatever you wish**,
and it will be done for you*

- Praying in Jesus name means not being angry when we do not get what we want.
- Praying in Jesus name means accepting the role of child and God as father.
- Praying in Jesus name means realizing that God is in control and has our VERY best interest at heart.
- Praying in Jesus name means knowing we would get everything we asked if we prayed according to everything God knows.

J.O.Y.

Jesus, Others, You

Joy is inside out - not outside in.

****We often miss joy because we overlook the ordinary and expect the extraordinary.**

****When we live with an outside in joy we are telling the world that Jesus is not as good as we sing about on Sunday.**

Introduce Prayer Time

Music

Sermon Part 2

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*...Don't be dejected and sad, for the **joy of the Lord** is your strength!*
Nehemiah 8:10c

The Greek word for **joy** is **chara**

The Greek *chara* is closely related to **charis**, which means “grace” or “a gift.” **Chara** is the normal response to **charis**—we have joy because of God's grace.

Some reasons for joy...

The joy of salvation

All heaven is full of joy when a person becomes a follower of Jesus. Luke 15:7

The joy of being set free

The servant girl was filled with joy that God had rescued Peter from prison. She even forgot to let Peter in the house. Acts 12:14:

The joy of a growing faith

Paul experienced joy when it was obviously the theHoly Spirit was transforming the churches he worked with. 2 Corinthians 1:24; 2:3; 7:4;

The joy of God's presence

You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalm 16:11

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Galatians 5:22-26

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