

MAIN POINT

The source of a Christian's joy is deeper than happiness, and not dependent on circumstances.

INTRODUCTION

How would you define authentic joy? What are some of the ways joy manifests itself in a person's life?

Can you share about a time when you were joyful, even though your circumstances didn't warrant it?

Joy is the second fruit of the Spirit Paul listed in Galatians 5:22-23, and a characteristic of the Christian life that he mentioned frequently in his New Testament letters. Christian joy is marked by celebration and expectation of God's ultimate victory over the powers of sin and darkness, a victory already actualized in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The ability to have joy in the Lord despite circumstances is one of the unique traits of the Christian life.

DISCUSSION

> **READ GALATIANS 5:22-23; 6:7-8; 4:7 AND ROMANS 5:3.**

This week we talked about planting for joy. Galatians 5 tells us joy is the fruit of the Spirit. What has to be planted in us to produce this type of fruit?

How does Galatians 6:7-8 speak to this?

What is being planted in your life most often right now? For help with this, consider the type of fruit that is being produced.

Are you more likely to exhibit joy or something else in difficult circumstances? How is it possible to exhibit joy in hardship through Jesus?

What are the ways we practically sow to the flesh or to the Spirit? How have you grown in joy through sowing to the Spirit?

Galatians 4:7 speaks to the position we have in Christ that produces joy. How does your position in Jesus bring you joy?

What other positions in life might you be tempted to put above your position in Christ?

Finally, we experience joy through precedent. All throughout the Bible, God reminds us of the things that are true about Him that have always been and always will be. How does this bring you joy?

What are the things you need to remember about God today that you might find joy in Him?

APPLICATION

How is God calling you to focus on planting, position, or precedent to find greater joy in Him this week?