



Living Under the Influence

Part 3 - Pastor Brian Gobar
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Part Three – Joy



I. REVIEW/INTRO

A. Thirty-five years!

B. The fruit of the spirit

- **Week One: Patience** is what gives every other fruit time to grow and develop

James 1:2-4 (NKJV) ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. (endurance) ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

- Patience: We trust God's process because we believe God's character is good.
- **Week Two: Goodness** is the visible evidence of God's character at work in us.
 - Goodness is the character of God being expressed through the life of a believer
 - Goodness Makes God Visible

Exodus 33:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" "Lord, how will the world know we're Your people?"

II. THE FRUIT OF JOY

A. God creates the standard and defines the terms

- God has already defined Joy AND He's given us an example

B. Joy and Happy aren't the same

C. The standard of Joy

John 15:4-6 (NLT) ⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

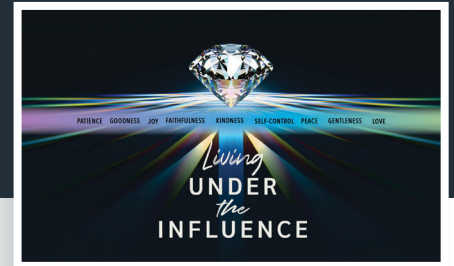
⁵ "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:11 (NLT) ¹¹ I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT) ²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

- Paul isn't giving us a checklist, He's describing Jesus

D. Patience has an assignment



James 1:2-4 (NKJV) ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

- **Happiness depends on what happens around me, Joy depends on Who lives in me.**

III. THE JOY OF THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH

A. None of these move me

Acts 20:22-23 (NKJV) ²² And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.

Acts 20:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

B. Why real joy is so important

Nehemiah 8:10b (NKJV) ... Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

- The same joy Jesus promised. The same joy Paul lived. The same joy the Holy Spirit produces. That's our strength.
 - This joy is the Strength to forgive.
 - This joy is the Strength to endure.
 - This joy is the Strength to keep serving.
 - This joy is the Strength to finish the race.

C. Which current?

- The world offers happiness, Jesus offers **His Joy**. One depends on circumstances, the other depends on Christ.
- One disappears when life gets hard, the other becomes your strength.
- One will help you enjoy the moment, the other will help you finish the race
- Patience helps you wait. Goodness helps you trust. Joy helps you endure.