

# Full Joy in the Lord

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my **Father is the husbandman.** 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now ye are **clean through the word** which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch **cannot bear fruit of itself**, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit:** for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, **ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.** 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. 9 **As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.** 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and **that your joy might be full.** 12 This is my commandment, **That ye love one another,** as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man **lay down his life for his friends.** 14 **Ye are my friends,** if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but **I have called you friends;** for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. 16 Ye have not chosen me, but **I have chosen you, and ordained you,** that ye should **go and bring forth fruit,** and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

- I want to remind you that He just told them He is leaving. They feel a sadness to know that life as they know it is over
  - This is the last week of His life. He will die in a matter of days now. He will be buried, rise again and ascend into Heaven
  - He has told them that He is going to prepare them a place
- John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.**

- He has promised them that they will be greatly used by God  
**John 14:12** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.*
  - They are obviously fearful and uncertain about their future and the future of the work Jesus has been preparing them to do
  - This is like a super encouraging message that they will be used of God
  - This passage is not a threat but an encouragement. He wants them to be full of joy **11** *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and **that your joy might be full.***
  - If you miss this verse you might miss the import of the whole passage
1. My joy can be full because I know that it is not me working but Him! **1** *I am the true vine, and my **Father is the husbandman.** 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

- a. For way too long I have felt like it was me doing things for Him
- b. I try to win souls, produce converts, make disciples and feel like a failure when I don't
- c. I do have personal responsibility in the service of the Lord. I can never escape that I am to obey. My obedience and desire to obey shows that I love Him. **10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.**
- d. I do hunger and desire to be used of God. I do want to produce fruit.
- e. But I now know that it is not be trying to convince God to allow me to have fruit. It is His will. He is at work in my life getting me ready to bear fruit and more fruit and even much fruit.
- f. He started the work in me and He will fulfill it
- g. He is moving me along with the way to more maturity every step. He is at work in me. He is not finished with me yet

2. My joy can be full because I know that He is cleaning me up to be used more **3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.**

- a. He uses His Word to cleanse me
- b. As I read, study, meditate, hear Bible preaching the Word of God gets into me and changes me. He shows me my sin, my self, my failure
- c. He shows me His power, His greatness, His love for me.
- d. He reminds me that I can't but that He can in and through me
- e. My main job is to abide in Him. As I maintain this close walk and love to Him He works in me. I stay close. I hear His Word, I feel His heart. I want to please Him.
- f. Remember the sayings, birds of a feather flock together, tell me who you run around with and I will tell you who you are, how can two walk together except they be agreed--the more I walk with God the more I will be like Him

3. My joy can be full because I am one with Jesus Christ **5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.**

- a. The vine is the important part. It is the vine that supplies all that the branches need. It is the vine that supports the branches. The vine is necessary, the branches are of minor importance and can even be replaced
- b. There is a great promise given here. If I will simply abide in Him and He in me then I will bring forth fruit.
- c. It is not the producing of the fruit that He calls for but the abiding. Abiding is simply staying, accepting, remaining, resting, trusting
- d. The branch is powerless without the vine. It is easy to think that God's work suffers without me. We can think that God can't without us but here Jesus says we can't without Him

- e. Men take care of the vine. They will remove branches that die, fail to stay connected to the vine. That do not allow the vine to do its work in them
  - f. Come to Jesus right now. Love Him, trust Him, tell Him you will never leave.
  - g. Think about Him, who He is, what He has done. Praise Him, thank Him, magnify Him. Make much of Jesus
4. My joy can be full because I have the promise of answered prayers **7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**
- 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**
- a. When I simply love Jesus and stay where I am supposed to say He will cause me to bear fruit
  - b. He will be glorified by using me
  - c. He will answer my prayers. My prayers are that I could please Him, bear fruit, be part of magnifying Him and growing His kingdom
  - d. God is not seeking to keep me from being used of Him. He wants to see me productive, blessed, bringing forth spiritual fruit

e. Abide and ask.

5. My joy can be full because I am loved by the Father just like Jesus is **9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.** **10** If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. **11** These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and **that your joy might be full.**

a. Jesus loves me just like the Father loves Him.

b. Jesus has not sought His own name, fame, or glory but to do what God wants Him to do with His life. He is God and yet is not self seeking

c. As I obey the Lord Jesus just like Jesus has obeyed the Father then I will show Him that I love Him

d. Obedience is my desire to please Him. I want to know what He likes. I want to do what pleases Him

e. My loving Him and obeying Him gives Him joy

f. My loving Him and obeying Him gives me joy

6. My joy can be full because of our personal close relationship with the Lord Jesus **12 This is my commandment, That ye**



**love one another,** as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man **lay down his life for his friends.** 14 **Ye are my friends,** if ye do whatsoever I command you. 15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but **I have called you friends;** for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

- a. Jesus wants His disciples to love each other.
- b. Real love is shown by giving up your own life for another
- c. When you really love someone you are not selfish, you do not look out for yourself but rather you lose yourself for the other person
- d. I want to do what He wants me to do. I want to give up my life and my desires to please Him
- e. He is my friend. He is not using His position of Lord and Master but rather as friend
- f. He keeps no secrets. I am on the inside I know what is going on. I am one with Him

7. My joy can be full because I was picked to be successful 16 **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit,**

and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

- a. This whole work didn't start with the disciples but with Jesus
- b. They were chosen and appointed to bring forth fruit.
- c. From the beginning they were chosen to make a lasting impact
- d. This verse is about being fruitful.
- e. This verse applies to all of us. God saved you, chose you, set a path before you, appointed you to be used of Him for His honor and glory.
- f. You will have a useful life of lasting impact if you will simply do what you were created and saved to do.
- g. Live out who you are. You are not a loser, you are not an accident, you are a child of God, a new creature. God has great plans for your life and it is going to happen
- h. So get with the program. Love Him, trust Him, wait on Him, and give Him glory even now for what He is going to do with you