

*DEVELOPING A
KINGDOM
MINDSET*

A MINDSET OF JOY

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Developing a Kingdom Mindset: A Mindset of Joy.

John 15:9-11 NKJV

⁹ “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

¹¹ “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.¹

Introduction.

- **Review:**

- The last couple of times we were together, we have been discussing the subject: Developing a Kingdom Mindset.
 - Here we learned how our mindset is a fixed mental attitude, in which we looked at Jesus first sermon in

¹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Jn 15:9–11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Mark 1, where He tells us to repent and believe in the Gospel.

- We have also learned how the Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost.

- **Overview:**

- Today we want to focus in more on the Joy aspect of the Kingdom of God.

Q. What comes to mind when you think about the word “Joy”?

- Most of the time when we think of Joy, we attribute it to a feeling as a result of our circumstances. If we think of it, this is where happiness and Joy get misconstrued. We understand happiness to be a feeling. With happiness, we can feel good at certain moments especially off of good circumstances. However, Life does not always have good circumstances. Joy on the other hand, is a confidence that can triumph even in bad circumstances.

Q. How can we keep our joy, even when our circumstances are not good? How can we keep our joy, when we loose our Job? How can we keep our joy when we are going through such things as a break up or divorce? How can. We keep our joy when we have civil unrest in our country? How can we keep our joy when we are going through hell?

Thesis:

Although we may attribute Joy to a feeling, as believers our joy is not only a feeling that is a result of our circumstances. Our Joy is a confidence that comes out of our relationship with Jesus, is kept by continuing to abide in the Love of God, and as a result is able to transcend all earthly circumstances, allowing the believers to look forward to the rewards God has for us on the other side of our trials and tribulations.

Context.

- To better understand how we can have a mindset of Joy, we are looking at John 15:1-17. John 15:1-17 is part of a larger context that begins in John 14, where Jesus is seen preparing his disciples for his departure.
- Here we see Jesus prepare his followers by letting them know that He is going to be with the father, however He will not leave them as orphans He will send the Holy Spirit who will be their helper, advocate, and standby.
- It is Here where Jesus specifically tells his followers that He is the only way to the father. He is the way, the truth, and the source of life.
- Moreover, John 15:1-17 Jesus is seen providing specific instruction to how his followers can remain in his love (or Joy). This has significant meaning because it would serve as an anchor for what the church would end up going through after Jesus' death and resurrection. It was after Jesus' death and resurrection where the early church would really endure persecution.

- This passage shows us how our Joy comes by having a relationship with God and is manifested by remaining or Abiding in his love.

Message:

I. A Joyful mindset is anchored out of the relationship we have with Jesus.

A. A Joyful mindset anchors us.

- If you can imagine an anchor, it is used to weigh such things as ships, docs etc. down. This is done so that when strong winds come, the ship does not drift off. It does not move.
- For the believer, the word of God anchors us, so when life happens, we have something to go back to, allowing us to stay on task.
- Jesus explains this so well in the gospels when he says that He who hears my word and does them is likened to the man who

builds his house on the rock. The Rock serves as the foundation.

The stronger the foundation, the stronger the house is.

- When our Joy is not based on circumstances around us, but in the Lord, whatever happens around us does not easily move us. We do not get easily offended. Because our confidence is in the Lord and what HE says about us, not what everyone else thinks or says about us. We are anchored in Christ.

B. Our Joy comes out of the revelation of who Jesus is.

1 Peter 1:6-9 NKJV

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not

see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.²

- This passage shows us that our faith in Jesus gives us a confident expectation of what is to come, which in the end is the Salvation of our Souls. This comes out of the revelation of who Jesus is.
- James says it in a similarly way in James 1, when he tells us to consider it a Joy when we face trials of many kinds.
- James puts a focus on what comes out of the trials and tribulations, which is the perfection of our patience, so that we may be complete lacking nothing (James 1:2-4).
- This is the mindset that the early church had. They considered it a Joy when they faced times that tested their faith because it was through their suffering that they identified themselves with

² [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (1 Pe 1:6–9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Christ, but also because they understood that when they faced this time, it meant that the coming of Christ was drawing near.

- The Early church was more focused on what comes after.

They were more focused on the result that comes after the troubling times, and situations, therefore they could have their mind set on their mission and completing their mission.

- For us, we can rejoice when we face troubling times, because we know there is a breakthrough on the other side. We can be confident that we will make it, because Jesus has already overcome the world.

C. When we have a mindset of Joy, our hearts need not to be troubled.

John 14:1 NKJV

14 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.³

- IF we think of the word Heart, most of the time we think of the one beating in our chest. However, the word for Heart in the scriptures (Old and New Testament) shows us that the heart (LEB) is the seat of emotions. It covers the whole range of activities that go on within the inner self including our thinking, grieving, rejoicing, what we desire, understanding, and decision making.
- The one thing the Devil wants to get to is your heart. That is why we must guard our heart with all diligence for out of it flows the issues of life.
- The Devil wants to cause us to be bitter, angry, unforgiving etc. This is stuff that gets to the heart.

³ [*The New King James Version*](#). (1982). (Jn 14:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- However, for the believer we need not our heart to be troubled because of our confidence in Jesus. We understand that God has already went before us. Jesus says here in John 14, that he has went ahead and prepared us a place.
 - This was the same thing with Israel, God prepared them a place, but while they were in-between, they had to fight off some things.
 - That is the same with us, God has went ahead of us and prepared us a place, but in the mean time the Devil wants us to be troubled. He wants us to doubt what God has already done for us.
- As believers, we need not to be troubled because we understand that Jesus has overcome the world.

II. A Joyful mindset is set by abiding in the word of God, walking in love and in prayer.

Q. What does it mean to “Abide”? To abide simply means to remain.

- In John 15, Jesus shows us how we can abide in him, it is simply by abiding in his word and in prayer.

John 15:7-8 NKJV

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.⁴

- This is so important for us to understand because there can pray to God, but if we want results, we must make sure we are praying in alignment with the Word of God.
 - This is interesting because many times we like to refer to the b clause of verse 7 when it says “you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” However, God answers

⁴ [*The New King James Version*](#). (1982). (Jn 15:7–8). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

prayer based on what his will is, which is seen in the word of God.

A. Abide in the word of God.

- Throughout the scripture, scripture tells us the significance of remaining in the word.
- When we remain in the word, it can cause us to have good success in life.
 - We see in Joshua 1:8 that it was by keeping the law of Moses and meditating on it, that would cause Joshua to have great success.
 - Philippians 4:6-9 says something similar by stating:
“⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷and the peace of God, which surpasses all

understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.⁵

- By remaining in the word, it keeps us from sinning against God.
- Psalms 119:9 NKJV “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.⁶”
- Abiding in the word of God, requires our obedience to the word of God.
- John 14 goes on to tell us that we obey the word of God based on how we love one another. And when we do so, Jesus tells us in John 14:19-21 that the Father will manifest himself in us through the person of the Holy Spirit.

B. Abiding in Prayer.

- It is through prayer that we can receive clear instructions from God.

⁵ [*The New King James Version*](#). (1982). (Php 4:6–7). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁶ [*The New King James Version*](#). (1982). (Ps 119:9). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- It is through prayer that we are able to allow God to intervein on our behalf.
- It is through prayer that we are able to make the exchange, and give God our concerns, anxieties, and in exchange receive the peace that passes understanding.

II. To Abide in the word of God, is to walk according to the spirit of God.

- This really what Jesus is getting to. When we abide in Christ, we are really walking by the spirit of God.
- For the believer, it is the Spirit of God in us that makes us kin to God. Galatians tells us that it is the Spirit that testifies if we are Sons or daughters of God or not.
- It is the Spirit of God that allows us to be “In Christ.”
 - The Word Christ has two connotations to it, which is “The anointing,” and “The anointed one.”

- We were created initially in the anointing. And it is the Holy Spirit that is continually molding us back into that anointing, the Imago Dei.

- To illustrate this point of Abiding in Him, Jesus gives the illustration of a vine and its branches.
 - The Vine who is Christ, represents the source of life. As long as the branches are connected to the vine, it produces fruit.
 - By the fact that Jesus says He is the true vine, that suggests that there are counterfeits out there.
 - However, for the branches that do not produce fruit, those are the ones that are cut off and thrown away by the vine dresser who is the Father. If the Father is the vine dresser, we do not have to worry about cancel culture, if we remain in Him, we simply will out grow and out live those people who are poisonous to our growth.

- In essence, Jesus is telling us to live life out of our spirit and to walk by the spirit.
- When we walk by the spirit, we will not gratify the things of our flesh. (Galatians 5:16-18).
- Our flesh is the nature of man without God. It is the nature that is controlled by sin and death.
- When we walk by our flesh, we no longer walk in love.
- The danger of not walking by the spirit and in the flesh is we give place to the Devil in our lives. Allowing him to pollute our hearts, stunting our growth, and hindering us from receiving the Joy and love God has for us.

Conclusion:

III. Joy and an abundance of Love is the result of Abiding in the Love of God.

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Finally, it is when we can have a mindset of Joy when we learn how to Abide in the Love of God by having a relationship with Jesus, Abiding his Word and Prayer, and continuing to walk according the Spirit of God by walking in love with others.

⁷ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Jn 15:9–11). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.