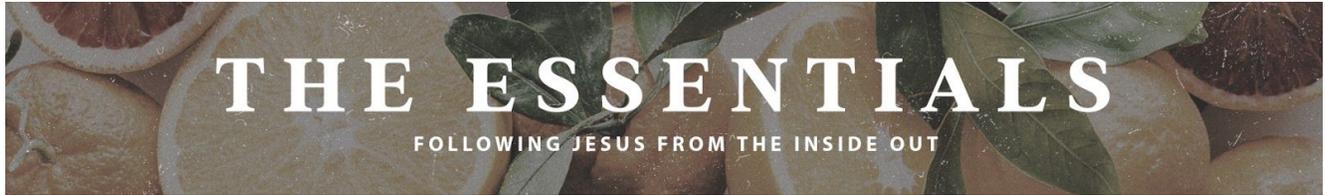


BEYOND SUNDAY: October 11, 2020



Series Page: wearepcc.com/theessentials Message: Joy in a World of Despair

The Essentials 9-week series will focus on what it means to reflect the character of Jesus. Each week, we will wrestle with one of the essential characteristics of Jesus with the hope of it bearing fruit in our lives as we become more dependent on the Spirit to lead us. This week our focus is on the first fruit of the Spirit - joy.

#1

Last week we learned that if we want different fruit in our lives we have to examine where our roots are being placed? How were you able to stay rooted in the love of God? Where did you see evidence of loving small or sacrificial love?

#2

Recall a joyous event or time in your life. Define joy and happiness. What is the difference between them? How happy are you today? How joyous are you today?

#3

It's often common to merely gut our way through difficult circumstances in our own strength, and when those circumstances are over, resume our attitude of joy. However, God wants our joy and hope to extend through our circumstances. In his book, [Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit](#), Christopher J.H. Wright points to a great example in Scripture found in [Acts 16: 25](#). Where were Paul and Silas and what were they doing? Our inner joy is not just beneficial to us. Who else heard them express their joy? How can expressing your joy in the midst of your pain and suffering affect the world around you today?

#4

As we saw last week, the battle between the flesh and the spirit is ongoing. See [Matthew 4: 1-11](#). What was it that Jesus used to not succumb to the flesh, but remain strong in the midst of His circumstances? How are you implementing the Word of God in your life today? How is this example of Jesus encouraging to you?

#5

Sunday's speaker and lead pastor Gary Gaddini encouraged us with two verses from Scripture to help us cultivate joy. We'll look at them one at a time. To help illustrate these verses let's look at our driving habits with regard to cell phone use, a major distraction for many Americans. Cell phone use while driving causes 1.6 million crashes and about 3,500 deaths per year, because we take both our focus and eyes off the road. This is alarming and very serious. Where we place the focus of our minds and eyes spiritually is even more important, and will prevent us

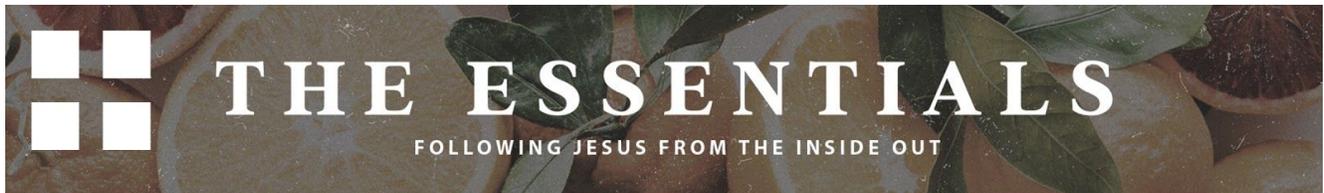
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from going off the road into the flesh, and robbing us from developing the fruits of the spirit. The first verse is [Philippians 4:8](#). According to this verse, what should we do and how will this affect our ability to cultivate joy? How have your thoughts been robbing your joy?

#6

The second verse is from [Hebrews 12:1-2](#). What should we do and how will this affect our ability to cultivate joy? What are your eyes fixed on that may be robbing your joy? Fixing our eyes and mind, therefore, on the character of Jesus, His Word, and His promises will allow us to remain connected to our super-power, (walk in the spirit), rise above our circumstances, be a witness to others, and maintain joy in the midst of our circumstances no matter what they are. What are your takeaways from today's study?

Series Daily Prayer:



John Stott's Morning Prayer

Good morning Heavenly Father, Good morning Lord Jesus, Good morning Holy Spirit.

Father, I worship you as the Creator and sustainer of the universe.

Lord Jesus, I worship you as Lord and Saviour of this world.

Holy Spirit, I worship you as the sanctifier of the people of God.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, I pray that today I might walk in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I pray that today I might take up my cross and follow you.

Holy Spirit, I pray that you might fill me today with your presence and cause your fruit to ripen within me: [love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control](#).

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity; three persons in one God, have mercy on me. Amen

John Stott (1921-2011), evangelist and scholar

[Click to download prayer & Galatians 5:22-23](#)

Actions or Resources:

- Make space for God this week. Declare the prayer daily.
- Memorize the Fruit of the Spirit: [Galatians 5:22-23](#).
- Read Chapter 3: [Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit](#), by Christopher J.H.Wright.
- Join a 9-Week Group: [Cultivating The Essentials](#) for Men, Women, or Coed.
- Join a [House Church](#).