

The Branch Life #7  
WWJD

John 15:1-8; HEBREWS 12:1-3

Today we wrap up the series on the Branch Life by asking the question, "So How do I grow to be more like Jesus?"

If you're a Christian, you have probably asked yourself that question. You many have asked it the day you came to know Christ. You may be one who has known Christ for 5, 10, 20, 40 years or more and you're still asking that question.

Two weeks ago I sidetracked WWJD and mentioned DWJND. Pop quiz – who remembers what DWJND stands for??? Today I want to go back to WWJD, but look at it from a different perspective. But first...

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

8 By this is my Father glorified that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

9 Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also 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

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

If we want to answer the question WWJD, then we need to fix our eyes on him and Consider him. If we want to abide and remain in the Vine and run the race with endurance, if we want to lay aside the sin which so easily entangles us, if we want to DO WHAT Jesus WOULD DO, then we must CONSIDER HIM.

This morning I want to consider several things about Jesus: What were his spiritual habits? What shaped his heart? WE can't DO like Jesus unless we follow the habits of Jesus. Even then we must remember that it's ultimately about What Jesus has Done for Us that empowers us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which we have been called.

**WWJ Delight in:**

WWJ Believe

WWJ Rejoice in

**WWJ Turn to**

**WWJ Delight in:**

Psalm 1 is the key to seeing how Jesus operated. Read v. 1-3

Jesus Christ embodies the blessed man. His delight was in the Law of God, in the rule of God, in the righteousness of God. John 4:34- His food was to do the will of the one who sent him.  
Matt 6 –HALLOWED BE THY NAME, THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE-. This is what he taught us to pray. His priority, his spiritual, emotional, mental center was the glory of God.  
Matt 22:37 – Love the Lord your God.... heart, soul, and mind. That was his life and his delight.

One reason why we don't bear fruit is because we don't delight in the right thing. Right delighting leads to right doing and fruiting. There will be no endurance in our obedience if our hearts aren't engaged in delighting in God. Obedience out of mere duty isn't biblical obedience. Biblical obedience is from the heart, for the glory of God. Above all, Sanctification, i.e. growing in grace and holiness, is a heart issue. The work of sanctification begins in the heart and governs all of life from the inside

That is where the motivation comes for obedience - love for God rooted in His love for us. If we love God we'll keep his commandment; obedience is the fruit, not root of our relationship with God. Where does this love come from? He who is forgiven much loves much. Our love grows as we see our sin. As we understand the depth of our sin, the pervasiveness of our sin, the length, breadth, width and height of our sin we see the size of HIS forgiveness. We also see the length, breadth, width and height of His LOVE FOR US.

How do we delight in God? Understand what He has done for us- see the size of our sin- Luke 7:40-47

If you want to be a BIG LOVER, SEE YOURSELF AS A BIG SINNER. This doesn't mean go out and do more sin, some neon sign kind of sin, it means see the bigness of the sin already present. And underneath it all see your addiction to your own righteousness. See how what you're really delighting in is building your own record and reputation. We need to stop delighting in ourselves and our own righteousness and start delighting in the righteousness of Christ if we want to DWJD.

SEE THE BIGNESS OF YOUR "SMALL SIN." EX: PLAYING TABOO

I wasn't delighting in the righteousness of Christ for my worth and meaning. I wanted to win the game.

One danger is that we try to rationalize and justify our sin by saying, "That's just who I am. Take it leave it." We think some sins are kind of cute because they are a part of our personality: << I'm just sarcastic, controlling, bossy, lazy, competitive, sloppy, loud, emotional, dull, late, etc. . That's just who I am.

Christian friend, we need to look at the surface sin and the sin underneath and see how we are hurting and wronging those around us, rather than saying, "that's just who I am." How dare WE say that? Jesus Christ died so that "who WE are" would be transformed into His likeness.

WWJDelight in? DOING THE WILL OF God. We will DWJD when it is our FOOD to accomplish His will.

WWJ Believe – In What truths did he ground his heart? Biblical Obedience is the kind of obedience that comes from a root system planted in God and is drinking up the joy, peace, satisfaction from His promises of Grace. The soil is important, it determines the quality of the fruit. What soil did Jesus plant his heart in?

- SONSHIP –John 17 Father is used several times. OUR FATHER...Mark 14:36 ABBA, FATHER
- That he shared in the Glory of God – John 17:4-5
- Holy calling – John 17:4
- God's Will can be trusted – Mark 14:36, not my will, but Thy will
- Eternal future – Heb 12:1-3 – the joy set before Him

Because he believed those things, he acted in a certain way. We must believe godly truths in order to act in a godly way. What is true of Jesus is true of us because of what HE DID FOR US.

**BELIEVE IN ORDER TO BE HOLY**

## ROMAN 8:16-18

In Christ we can know God as “daddy, ABBA”. We share in the glory of God. We have a holy calling. God’s will can be trusted – Rom 8:28. We have an eternal future, the glory of which outweighs any hardship we may face on this earth. Roman 8:16-18

If we believe what Jesus believed, and if our hearts believe that what was true of him is true of us as believers, then our lives will be changed. Most of our sin comes a lack of belief. That is, we aren’t satisfied with all that God is for us in Christ. Remember, the evidence of faith is being satisfied with all that God is for us in Christ. That means that the believing heart is a satisfied heart, so it stops seeking to filled with the faded glory that comes from the world or from others.

E X: AMONG KIDS – the constant challenging, boasting etc. Trying to establish a pecking order to gain a sense of worth and importance. << I can do it faster, my dad’s stronger than your dad, my car’s faster than your car...>>

Trying to be “cool”. Name dropping, label dropping, price dropping etc. it is all a part of the glory hunger of this world. The bottom line is we’re saying, << **all that God is for me in Christ isn’t enough. I need to add to it. I need to create my own righteousness before others.**>>

Get full of the glory from Christ so that you can live as he lived. Let your soul be comforted, consoled and content with knowing Christ as your ADVOCATE, your representative before God (1 John2:2). If you know him, then His record is your record and God loves you even as He loves Christ. This isn’t smoke and mirrors or power of positive thinking it is the power of the gospel. It leads to the obedience of the satisfied heart, or as Romans 1:5 says, “the obedience of faith.”

EX: TWO PEOPLE STUFED ON A GREAT CHRISTMAS DINNER AREN’T GOING TO FIGHT OVER SOUR MILK AND STALE DOUGHNUTS. Compared to the Bread of Life in Christ, most of what we fight over is sour milk and stale doughnuts.

The reason you’re fighting, anxious, worried, jealous, bitter is because you’re trying to fill your soul with the stale doughnuts of this world. It doesn’t satisfy so you’ve got to have more so you fight with others who are seeking the same crumbs and if you get too much you get a belly ache. But later you come back for more. GET SATISFIED WITH THE GLORY OF God IN Christ by believing the truths that Jesus believed.

## **WWJ Rejoice in? – Eternal life and glory of God in the saints – Heb 12:1-3.**

Jesus Christ hoped in the eternal glory of God. He endured the temptations of his earthly life and the cross because he hoped in an eternal glory. The only way we can live by faith and show radical self-sacrificing obedience is to set our hope on the grace to be brought to us with the return of Christ.

**The Biblical maxim is not, "Seeing is believing," but "Seeing is becoming." 1 John 3:3.** The gospel has such power that simply hoping in it purifies us. Rejoicing in God purifies us.

Try boasting in the Lord and his grace while at the same time boasting in yourself. IT’S IMPOSSIBLE.

Try boasting in God’s grace while at the same time gossiping and tearing down someone else. IT’S IMPOSSIBLE.

Try rejoicing in all that God has forgiven you while at the same time holding a grudge against someone else. IT’S IMPOSSIBLE.

Try praising God for meeting your deepest eternal needs while at the same time worrying about the cares of the day. IT’S IMPOSSIBLE.

**Either we functionally believe the gospel, rejoice in it, savor it and are satisfied OR we don’t functionally believe it and we seek our satisfaction in what the world offers.**

WWJD means we don't live for this world. We don't get squeezed into the mold of this world. Our dreams and hopes and desires aren't satisfied in this world, but our true satisfaction is in the eternal hope we have in Christ.

**TEST QUESTION: If you could have all your dreams come true and your desires met, but not have God, would you be satisfied?**

Your Sunday morning sitting in church answer is "no" I wouldn't be satisfied without God, but is that your Monday morning answer? What does your life say? Are you pursuing God with at least the same intensity that you pursue your dreams and goals at work? Is your heart engaged in savoring God and in delighting in him? Is your prayer life characterized by praise and adoration, or do you only pray when what you really want is at stake?

The bible portrays the kingdom and the Christian life as a feast where there is rejoicing Phil 3:1. Christian friend, we have every reason on earth, and in eternity, to rejoice when we understand the depth of God's grace toward us.

Spurgeon: "You always want beggars at your feast. They cheer for every dish" << Man did you see that turkey? Did you see those potatoes? Did you see that cake?>>

Spiritually, we're just beggars who have been given a feast. In ourselves, we don't deserve anything but the curse of God That's why we need the gospel. The good news is that Jesus got what we deserved so that we could get what He deserved.

Sunday worship is to be a foretaste of the heavenly feast. Are you changed by the mercy of God or do you take it for granted? Here's how you know - Do you cheer for every dish? Do you typically come with a heart of praise or do you just come?

If we find that life seems dull or meaningless, we may need to ask, "What am I rejoicing in?" "What is my functional God? What am I really trusting in, hoping in and believing in to give my life joy, meaning and purpose?" If it isn't Christ, then repent and lean into the Gospel.

**WWJ Delight in:**

WWJ Believe

WWJ Rejoice in

**WWJ Turn to**

In times of trial- temptation and death he turned to the Word of God

In the desert, how did Jesus face temptation? He used the Word to combat the lies of Satan and to keep his heart pure and his feet from going into sin.

This is the reality of the promise of Scripture. Psalm 119:97

I've said it before and will continue to say it: One of the best things we can do for our souls is to pray through the Psalms. Hear the testimony of James Gilmour, Scottish missionary to Mongolia in the late 1800's

**When I feel I cannot make headway in devotion, I open at the Psalms and push out in my canoe, and let myself be carried along in the stream of devotion which flows through the whole book. The current always sets towards God, and in most places is strong and deep.**

[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/James\\_Gilmour\\_of\\_Mongolia](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/James_Gilmour_of_Mongolia)

In times of temptation by the Devil and in the face of death itself, on the cross, Jesus turned to quoting the scripture. If Jesus needed the Word, how much more do we need it?

**The Branch life is one of Abiding in Christ as His Word abides in us.**

That means that we draw strength from the Spirit of Christ. The Holy Spirit who inspired the Word uses His word in our hearts and minds to transform us in the likeness of Christ.

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