

PLEASURE DOES NOT EQUAL HAPPINESS

Living the Better Life – Part 3

June 3, 2018

HOW DO YOU FIND TRUE HAPPINESS?

1. Break the connection between TEMPORARY PLEASURE and LASTING HAPPINESS.

Hebrews 11:24-25 (NASB) *“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.”*

Faith is hanging your whole life and future on Christ.

Luke 15:13 (NLT) *“A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living.”*

Luke 12:19-20 (NIV) *“‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ ”*

2. Break the connection between WHAT YOU DO and WHO YOU ARE.

Ecclesiastes 2:1,4-8,10 (NIV) *“I said to myself, ‘Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.’ But that also proved to be meaningless...’ ⁴ I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. ⁵ I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. ⁶ I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. ⁷ I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man’s heart. ¹⁰ I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil.”*

Ecclesiastes 2:11 (NIV) *“Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.”*

**3. Break the connection between YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES
and YOUR CHARACTER.**

Luke 6:22 (GNT) *“Happy are you when people hate you, reject you, insult you, and say that you are evil, all because of the Son of Man!”*

1 Peter 3:14 (GNT) *“But even if you should suffer for doing what is right, how happy you are! Do not be afraid of anyone, and do not worry.”*

Matthew 5:6-10 (TLB) *“Happy are those who long to be just and good, for they shall be completely satisfied. ⁷ Happy are the kind and merciful, for they shall be shown mercy. ⁸ Happy are those whose hearts are pure, for they shall see God. ⁹ Happy are those who strive for peace—they shall be called the sons of God. ¹⁰ Happy are those who are persecuted because they are good, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.”*

Happiness is an INSIDE job.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NIV) *“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.”*

HOW DO YOU LIVE THE HAPPY LIFE?

1. Receive God’s FORGIVENESS.

Psalms 32:1-5 (NLT) *“Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! ² Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! ³ When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. ⁴ Day and night Your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. ⁵ Finally, I confessed all my sins to You and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, ‘I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.’ And You forgave me! All my guilt is gone.”*

2. Submit to God’s DISCIPLINE.

**Discipline is an expression of LOVE because discipline
is an expression of CORRECTION and PROTECTION.**

Luke 11:28 (GNT) *“Happy are those who hear the Word of God and obey it!”*