

MORE THAN HAPPY
The Source of Joy
Psalm 16

Chuck Swindoll (one of my favorite preachers) was once asked what one thing he wished that he would have done more of over the course of his ministry. His answer: I wish that I had spent more time ENCOURAGING people. This is funny, because he is one of the most encouraging communicators that I have ever listened to in my life. But I get what he means. This world is full of sorrow and pain, and people tend to live their lives overburdened by troubles and grief. People just want to be HAPPY, but they tend to mistakenly look in all the wrong places for happiness. This is a TRAGEDY that just adds to the sorrow in this world. **How sad is it that people create MORE PAIN in their lives by searching for happiness in all the wrong places?** People CHASE PLEASURE only to FIND ADDICTIONS. They seek some ultimate sense of happiness in MARRIAGE only to give up one spouse after another when they find that they are "just not happy anymore." Where does it end? For most people, this futile search often ends in drudgery . . . or death. In America, we have the best of all possible lifestyles and comforts and pleasures available to us. And we are the SUICIDE CAPITAL of the world. King Solomon was right: All of the pleasures of the world will not ultimately satisfy us. But don't despair; there is a BETTER WAY TO LIVE.

The Westminster Catechism is one of the most well-known STATEMENTS OF FAITH in Christian history. This catechism contains a FUNDAMENTAL DESCRIPTION of the GOAL of the Christian life. I love this statement. **The CHIEF END (or AIM) of life is to GLORIFY GOD and to _____ him forever. Do you know what word is supposed to be in that blank? Serve? Follow? Love?** Nope. The word that those old saints put in that statement may be surprising to you. It is the THEME of this series. It is my ENCOURAGEMENT to you today.

ENJOY GOD!

Oh, how I wish that each of us could begin to FATHOM just how much JOY there is in knowing God. He is our UNLIMITED SOURCE OF JOY. And sadly, I think that many Christians do not even know HOW to enjoy him. I hope to give you some HANDLES for doing just that starting today. King David described his JOY IN GOD in one of my favorite Psalms. **Psalm 16:1-11 NIV**

1 A miktam of David. Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. 2 I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." 3 I say of the holy people who are in the land, "They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight." 4 Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips. 5 LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. 7 I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. 8 I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, 10 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. 11 You make

known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

In this Psalm, I want us to really see what it means to ENJOY God in our relationship with him.

-John Piper: God is MOST GLORIFIED in us when we are MOST SATISFIED in Him!!

-Do YOU ENJOY GOD? Really? [The tragedy of SOUR SAINTS]

-Do you see any connection between God and the things that you enjoy?

David did! Let's see the BASIS for a life that is MORE THAN HAPPY in God.

ENJOYING GOD BEGINS WITH TRUST. ["Take refuge" = to TRUST IN, find shelter in]

-Have you TRUSTED CHRIST with your life? Relationship begins with TRUST! [Marriages]

*This Psalm was written during a time of TRIAL, not prosperity! [Miktams – Psalm 16, 56-60]

-Don't think that you have to be going through GOOD TIMES to enjoy God.

*Happiness is based on HAPPENINGS!

happy (adj.)

late 14c., "lucky, favored by fortune, being in advantageous circumstances, prosperous;" of events, "turning out well," from **hap** (n.) "chance, fortune" + **-y**

-Trusting God teaches you to SEE THROUGH your circumstances! **JOY is PERSPECTIVE**

*What is God DOING THROUGH the DIFFICULTIES of life that you are facing?

*Look at the BEATITUDES: **MATTHEW 5:7-12 [Poor, Mourners, Persecuted, etc.]**

***TRUST involves SUBMISSION! (Vs. 2a)**

-SUBMISSION allows you to RECEIVE JOY AS A GIFT FROM GOD! **John 15:11 NIV**

11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

-Jesus said this in the CONTEXT of his teaching about the VINE and the BRANCHES!

"You are my LORD. APART FROM YOU I have no good thing!"

-Our joy is INCOMPLETE without the GIFT of HIS JOY! ["Your joy . . . my joy."]

[Complete = Overflowing, Total, Abundant]

*This joy is found only by submitting to his LORDSHIP! [Follow his lead!]

-He is our INFINITE SOURCE OF JOY. Did you know that God is INFINITELY JOYFUL?

*He is joyful in his character and nature.

He experiences ONGOING JOY in both the ACT and the MAINTENANCE of CREATION.

G K Chesterton on the Joy of God – [From Orthodoxy]

Because children have abounding vitality, because they are in spirit fierce and free, therefore they want things repeated and unchanged. They always say, "Do it again"; and the grown-up person does it again until he is nearly dead. For grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony. But perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every morning, "Do it again" to the sun; and every evening, "Do it again" to the moon. It may not be automatic necessity that

makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never got tired of making them. It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we. The repetition in Nature may not be a mere recurrence; it may be a theatrical ENCORE.

-HIS JOY involves HIS PASSION about us! **(Vs. 3)** [Psalm 16 is a MESSIANIC PSALM]

-The joy of verse 3 is Jesus's joy over those he REDEEMS! [ISAIAH 53]

*God's Word states that those who love God are a primary source of joy for God!

Hebrews 12:3 NIV

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. **For the joy set before him** he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

-Doesn't it give you JOY knowing that he finds incredible joy . . . IN YOU?

ENJOYING GOD IS THE RESULT OF PROPERLY RECEIVING GIFTS FROM GOD.

*Take time to **SAVOR** the little blessings of life. They are GIFTS from God.

[Smiles, Sunsets, etc] **[LEARN FROM GOD HOW to EXULT in MONOTONY!]**

-Learn to LOOK THROUGH the good things until you SEE THE GIVER! **[Perspective!]**

***CHOOSE to EXPRESS APPRECIATION for YOUR LOT IN LIFE. [Vs. 5-6]**

[MAKE A JOY LIST!] David did this in Psalm 16!

-God is MY PORTION! He is the BEST INHERITANCE you could imagine!

-God is the PROTECTOR of my life. HE is my SECURITY.

-God is the DESIGNER of my PATH! **[Boundary lines, Counsel at night!]**

*Are you LISTENING to his COUNSELS in the NIGHT SEASONS?

-He is my PROMISE OF RESURRECTION! **[Vs. 9b-10]** [Funerals I have done lately]

***LEARN HOW TO CELEBRATE the PRESENCE of GOD! Psalm 16:8-9, 11 NIV**

8 I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure.

11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

-Choose to KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS . . . no matter what! **[Simon Peter on the water]**

***Watch the strongest guy in the room. As long as he stays calm, you can!**

-Develop the HABIT of OPENLY CELEBRATING the PRESENCE of God!

*Learn how to DANCE! **[Little girl dancing on the front row with the protective mask!]**

[King David was MOCKED by his wife for dancing before the Lord, but he still did it!]

*Let God REDEFINE your concept of PLEASURE! **[ORIGIN OF HOLIDAYS!]**

UNGODLY PLEASURES

*Are TEMPORARY

GODLY PLEASURES

*Are ETERNAL

*Are DESTRUCTIVE (See Vs 4)

*Come with REGRETS

*Are Healthy, Positive

*Come with NO REGRETS

Let me finish by addressing those of you who simply DO NOT BELIEVE what I am saying about JOY. You are determined to keep on pursuing HAPPINESS in other things. I am so sad for you. But maybe the very path that you are on MAY ULTIMATELY LEAD YOU TO JESUS. I believe that it can because you will find that all happiness apart from Jesus will DISAPPOINT YOU, but can at the same time LEAD YOU DIRECTLY TO HIM. He fulfills some pleasures and prohibits others so that you finally be brought face to face with HIM. My prayer is that you WILL NOT have to go through all of that before you find him, or that you refuse to believe him no matter what! You can be MORE THAN HAPPY TODAY . . IN CHRIST.

Let's pray.