

and pleasing Him, **no matter what our circumstances are!** No marriage, family, job, or anything else will be perfect in this lifetime, but individually each one of us **can still have enough happiness every day**—with occasional joy—to cheerfully fulfill God's purposes for us, including our daily requirements. *"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."* John 13:17

**The most important** thing a Christian can do to daily have personal peace and joy is to get **enough spiritual food** every day from God's Word to give him spiritual desire, energy, guidance, and strength! *"Thy words were... unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart..."*; Jeremiah 15:16. *"...nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine..."*; 1 Timothy 4:6.

So then, **God's program for your happiness** is first to **be saved** from sin by Him, then to **stay in fellowship with Him** by obedience and confession of sin to Him, and finally **read the Bible** to acquire personal joy, guidance, and power from Him.

**If you are not sure** you would go to Heaven if you died today, **now** is the best time to be saved. Any time later may be way too late! It is now up to you to let Jesus save you (Matthew 16:24-26).

"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation, 2 Corinthians 6:2.

Please—right now—turn away from sin and turn your life over to Jesus Christ; ask Him to save you and make you happy! "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved", Romans 10:13. God promised!

**If you trusted Christ** as your Savior, this advice will help you become a strong and happy Christian:

1. **Follow** Jesus Christ daily by studying and obeying the Bible, 1 Peter 2:2.
2. **Pray** for guidance and for power to be obedient, Philippians 4:6-7.
3. **Go** to an active, Bible teaching church on Sundays to learn God's Word, to worship, and to serve God with other Christians, Hebrews 10:25; Acts 2:1-47.
4. **Tell** others every day about Jesus and His wonderful gift of eternal salvation, Acts 2:47.



# HAPPY?

*"If ye know these things,  
happy are you if ye do them."  
John 13:17*

**Everyone wants to be happy**, and many people make it their top life-long priority to find happiness, whatever that may mean to them. To some, happiness means having **“fun”**; others may define it as finding **meaning** to this complex, demanding existence on earth.

The words, **“happy”**, **“blessed”**, and **“joyful”** are used in the Bible to describe the state or condition of cheerfulness, calmness, and contentment that we all would like to enjoy in our minds and hearts. We call it **“happiness”**.

Happiness is **not difficult** to achieve, but **there is a very definite way** to acquire it, and that process is clearly explained in the Bible, the Word of God.

It is obvious in the Bible that **happiness is the result** of a person's deliberate, conscious choice to believe right things or do right things, and **not a feeling we somehow achieve** by ourselves that then makes us want to do certain things because we “feel like it”.

More specifically, here are a few of the most important things God says will make us happy:

**1)** *“Happy are you, . . . O people saved by the LORD. . . .”* Deuteronomy 33:29. Being rescued (“saved”) from the sorrow, judgment, and punishment of sin is the most important aspect of happiness. “. . . the gospel” (“the good news”) is that “. . . Christ died for our sins. . . . He was buried. . . He rose again. . . according to the

*Scriptures.”* 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. **Included in God's gift** of salvation are eternal forgiveness of sins, everlasting life, and God living in your heart forever, John 10:27-30; Hebrews 13:5; Colossians 1:27. Since God wants us all to be happy, He has made the only way that we can be rid of the sin that spoils happiness. Jesus Christ paid our penalty on the cross as the Father judged Him for all that we have done wrong, Romans 5:8. Jesus then rose from the grave to show His power over sin, death, and Hell, Romans 10:9. Christ said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me”*, John 14:6. If you are not sure you have been saved and accepted by God, **please ask Him now** to be your Savior.

**2)** *“Create in me a clean heart, O God. . . . Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation. . . .”* Psalm 51:10a, 12a, 14. In this passage, personal happiness is seen as a result of **confession of sin to God** and cleansing from sin by God. After we are saved, we need to confess our sins to God, so we can be free from that which breaks our fellowship with Him. David did not pray for his **salvation** to be restored; he prayed for **the joy** of his salvation to be restored by God's cleansing sin from his heart. **To be happy** saints, we must confess sin as soon as we realize we have done something that displeases the Lord, 1 John 1:9.

**3)** The Lord Jesus Christ said, *“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”*, John 13:17; therefore, God

says that in order to be genuinely and constantly happy, there are basic things we must first “know,” and then “do.” No one who is a “real” Christian, trusting only Jesus Christ as Savior, can be happy unless he **obeys God's Word**. Again, Jesus Christ said, *“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them,”* John 13:17.

This teaches us, that it is impossible for a Christian to be happy without **obedience to God!** An argument between a husband and wife breaks the fellowship between them, interrupting their happiness, but it does not end the relationship. Disobedience to God's Word breaks the fellowship between God and the Christian, but it cannot nullify eternal life. **Joy is restored** as soon as sin is confessed to the Lord, Psalm 51:12.

*“Happy is that people, that is in such a case; yea, happy is that people whose God is the LORD.”*  
*Psalm 144:15*

**4)** While happiness is a condition or state of continuous contentment that commonly results in calmness of spirit, a warm smile, and quiet chuckling, **joy** is that occasional sharp rise in emotional pleasure that typically results in cheering, laughing, shouting, leaping. Since the **Lord Jesus Christ Himself** is the greatest object and creator of happiness, Philippians 3:1, 3; 1 Peter 1:8, there is **nothing more important in all the universe** than loving, worshipping, honoring, enjoying,