

I WOULD BE HAPPY IF



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IF I WERE . . . / IF I HAD . . . / IF I COULD . . .



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IF I WERE . . . / IF I HAD . . . / IF I COULD . . .

Happy - adjective,

1. delighted, pleased, or glad, as over a particular thing: (to be happy to see a person.)
2. characterized by or indicative of pleasure, contentment, or joy: a happy mood; a happy frame of mind.



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IF I WERE . . . / IF I HAD . . . / IF I COULD . . .



- ~ To a lot of people “happiness” is defined in terms of having every desire fulfilled.
- ~ Most would define happiness as a life of wealth, pleasure and constant fun.
- ~ God's concept of human happiness is not the same as the world's concept of happiness?

I WOULD BE HAPPY IF

IF I WERE . . . / IF I HAD . . . / IF I COULD . . .



- ~ What many think will make them happy, may indeed bring temporary pleasure, a false sense of well being & fulfillment . . . but will not bring continual happiness - (Gen 3; Prov. 14:12)
- ~ Alcohol & drugs? Materialism? Selfish desires? Unlawful relationships? Sinful pleasure?

I WOULD BE HAPPY IF

PSEUDO HAPPINESS CAN BE FOUND IN SIN



- ~ Jeremiah 12:1 (NKJV) Righteous are You, O LORD, when I plead with You; Yet let me talk with You about Your judgments. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?
- ~ Malachi 3:15 (KJV) And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

I WOULD BE HAPPY IF

TRUE, ENDURING HAPPINESS CANNOT BE FOUND IN MATERIAL THINGS



- ~ Solomon - Eccl. 2:1-11
- ~ A certain rich man – Luke 12:13-21
- ~ The Laodiceans – Rev. 3:17
- ~ Material wealth can be a source of MANY sorrows – 1 Tim. 6:6-10; Col. 3:1,2
- ~ All material things will “pass away” - 1 John 2:15-17

I WOULD BE HAPPY IF

TRUE, ENDURING HAPPINESS CANNOT BE FOUND BY RUNNING FROM HERE TO THERE

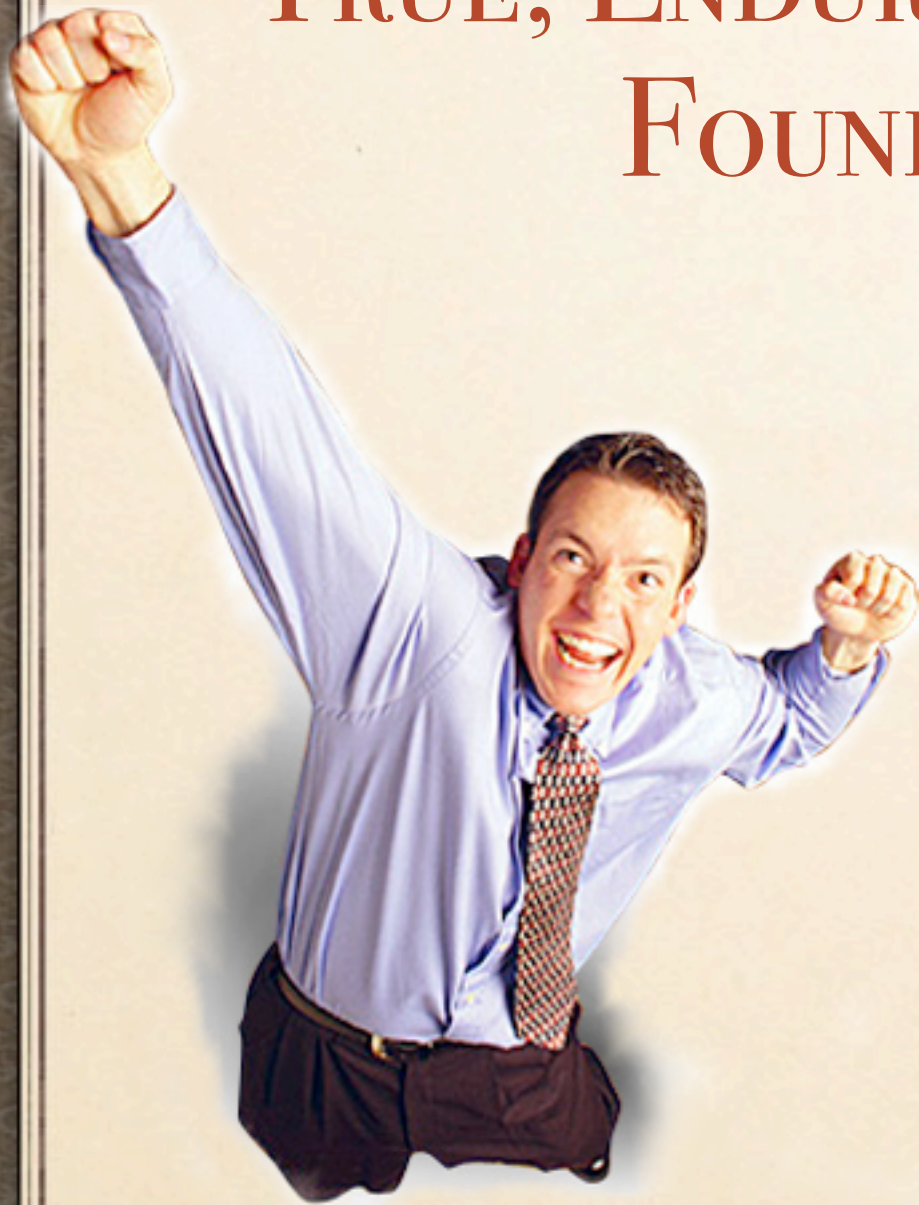


- ~ Lot saw the well watered plains of Jordan & thought he would be better off there – Gen. 13:8-13
- ~ James Oppenheim said “*The foolish man seeks happiness in the distance, the wise man grows it under his feet.*”
- ~ Applies to marriage, job, local church, etc. -

I WOULD BE HAPPY IF

TRUE, ENDURING HAPPINESS CANNOT BE FOUND APART FROM GOD

- ~ Apart from trusting God -
Jer. 17:5-8
- ~ In freedom from His rule -
(Prodigal son – Luke 15:11-24;
ungodly Gentiles – Rom. 1:18-32)
- ~ In seeking to be different
from who God made us to be
– Eccl 12:13



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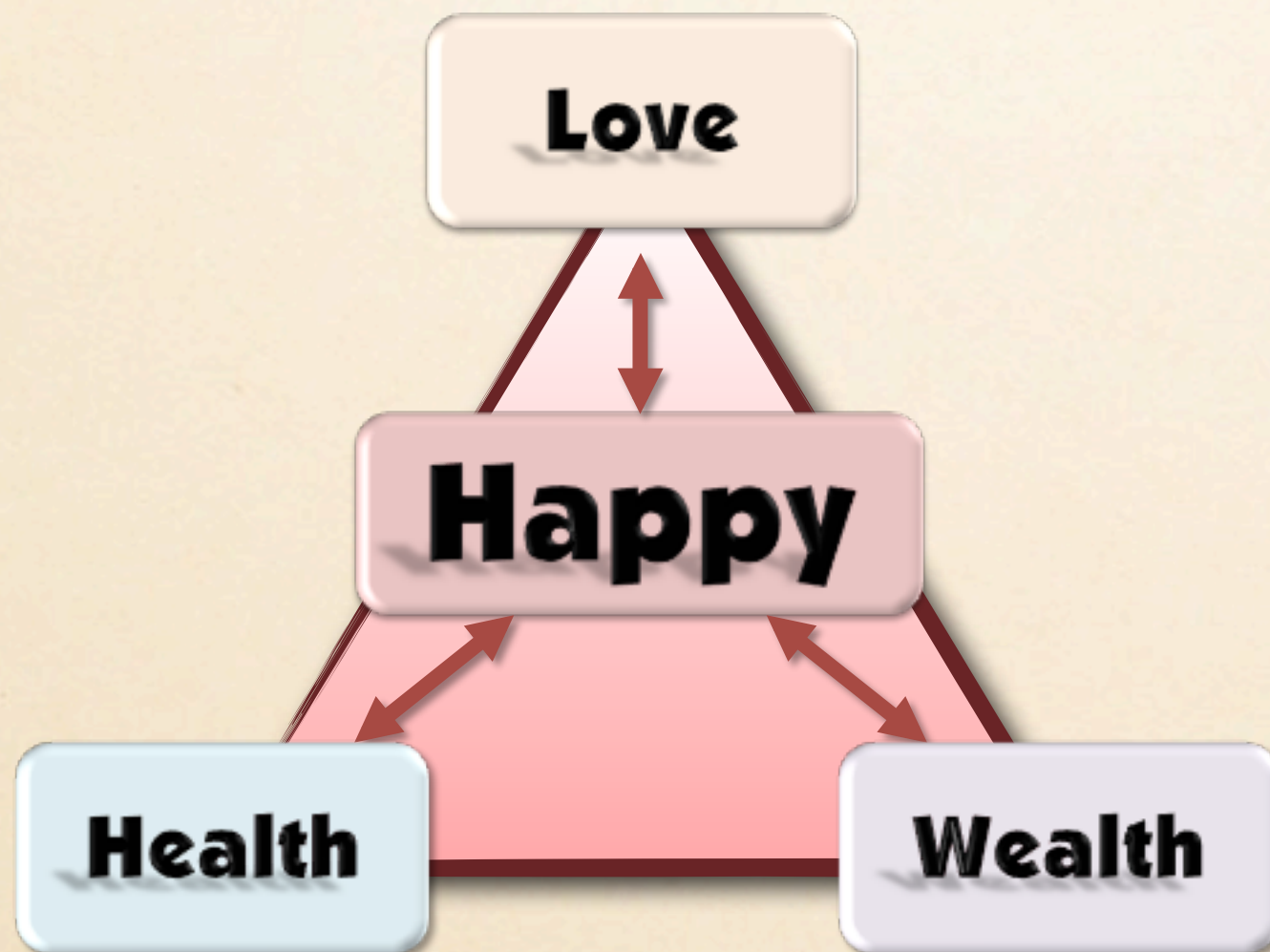
Don't let your
happiness
depend on
something you
may lose.
- C.S. Lewis
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- ~ Our happiness will not rise above our values!
- ~ Our expectations of things in this life may let us down - disappointments will come - thus our life, love, trust & hope must be based on God & His word!

God Wants Me To Be Happy!

IF I WERE . . . / IF I HAD . . . / IF I COULD . . .

Values / Desires / Condition

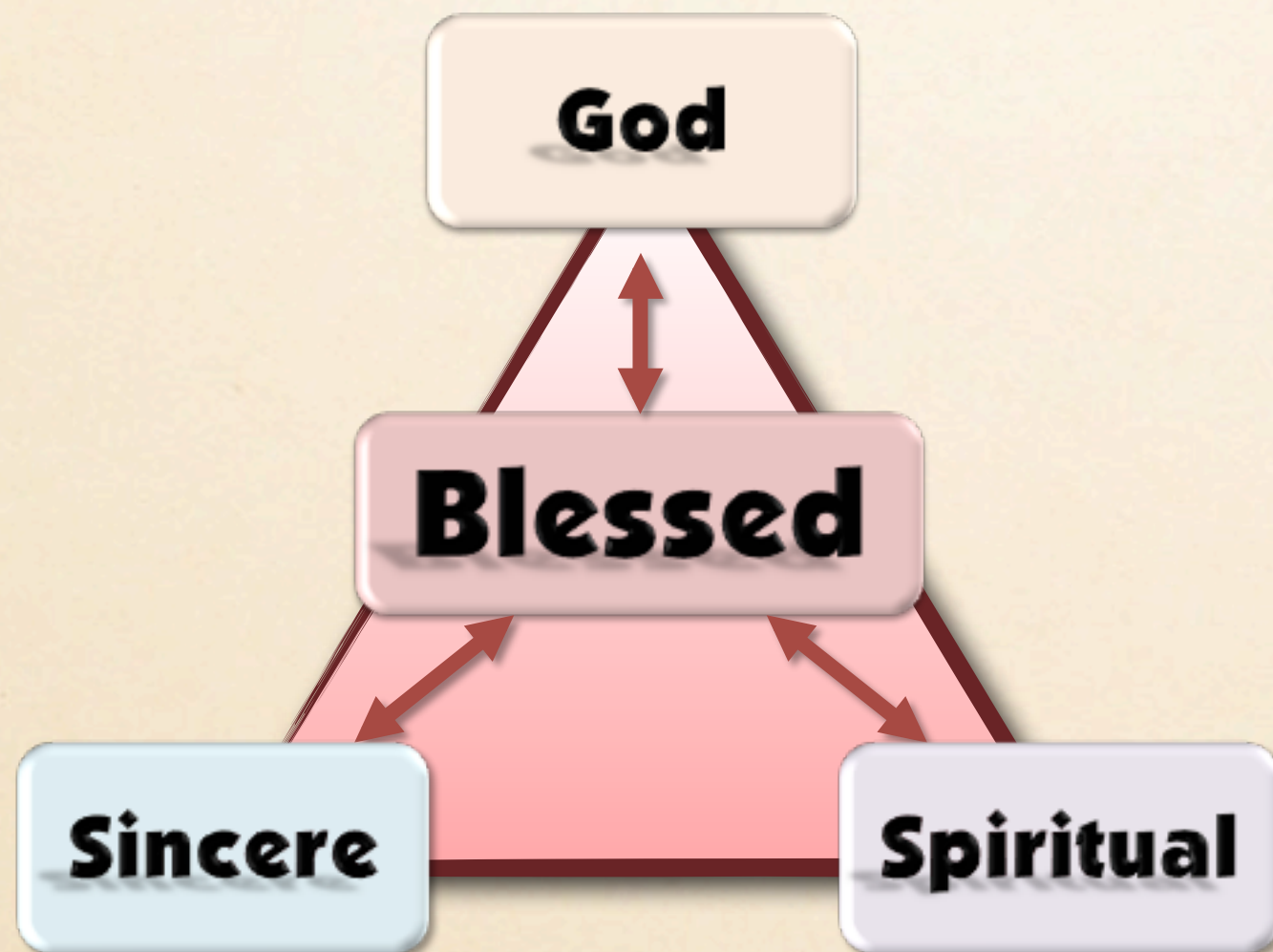


- ♦ Carnal or spiritual love?
- ♦ Physical or spiritual health?
- ♦ Material or spiritual wealth?
- ♦ Temporary or eternal happiness?

God Wants Me To Be Happy!

IF I WERE . . . / IF I HAD . . . / IF I COULD . . .

Values / Desires / Condition



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- ♦ Temporary or eternal happiness?

God Wants Me To Be Happy!

“We have lost a sense of awe before God. We want to do whatever we want to do, and then call upon God to help us ... to justify us and serve us, and make us happy. So, we imprison God within the structure we have built for Him -- we live however we want to live, then when we are confronted with some portion of truth or law or some rebuke to awaken us our reply is, "Well, God wants me to be happy!" Well, God wants us to be happy, but the happiness he desires for us is spiritual, and it is based on holiness, not the flesh.”

God Wants Me To Be Happy!

“Christianity is about dying to self, and letting God change us from the inside out. It's not "happy" a lot of times - but as Eric Ludy says, we need to redefine what we mean by "happy." He says he went from being a self-gratifying, self-focused guy to wanting God to be glorified no matter what. That was now his version of "happy.”

I WOULD BE HAPPY IF

TRUE HAPPINESS IS ONLY FOUND IN GOD

- ~ Psalm 144:15 (NKJV) 15
Happy are the people who are
in such a state; Happy are the
people whose God is the
LORD!
- ~ Psalm 146:5 (NKJV) 5 Happy
is he who has the God of
Jacob for his help, Whose
hope is in the LORD his God,

Don't let your
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- ~ Proverbs 3:13 (NKJV) 13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding;
- ~ Proverbs 3:18 (NKJV) 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.
- ~ Proverbs 16:20 (NKJV) 20 He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.

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TRUE HAPPINESS IS ONLY FOUND IN GOD

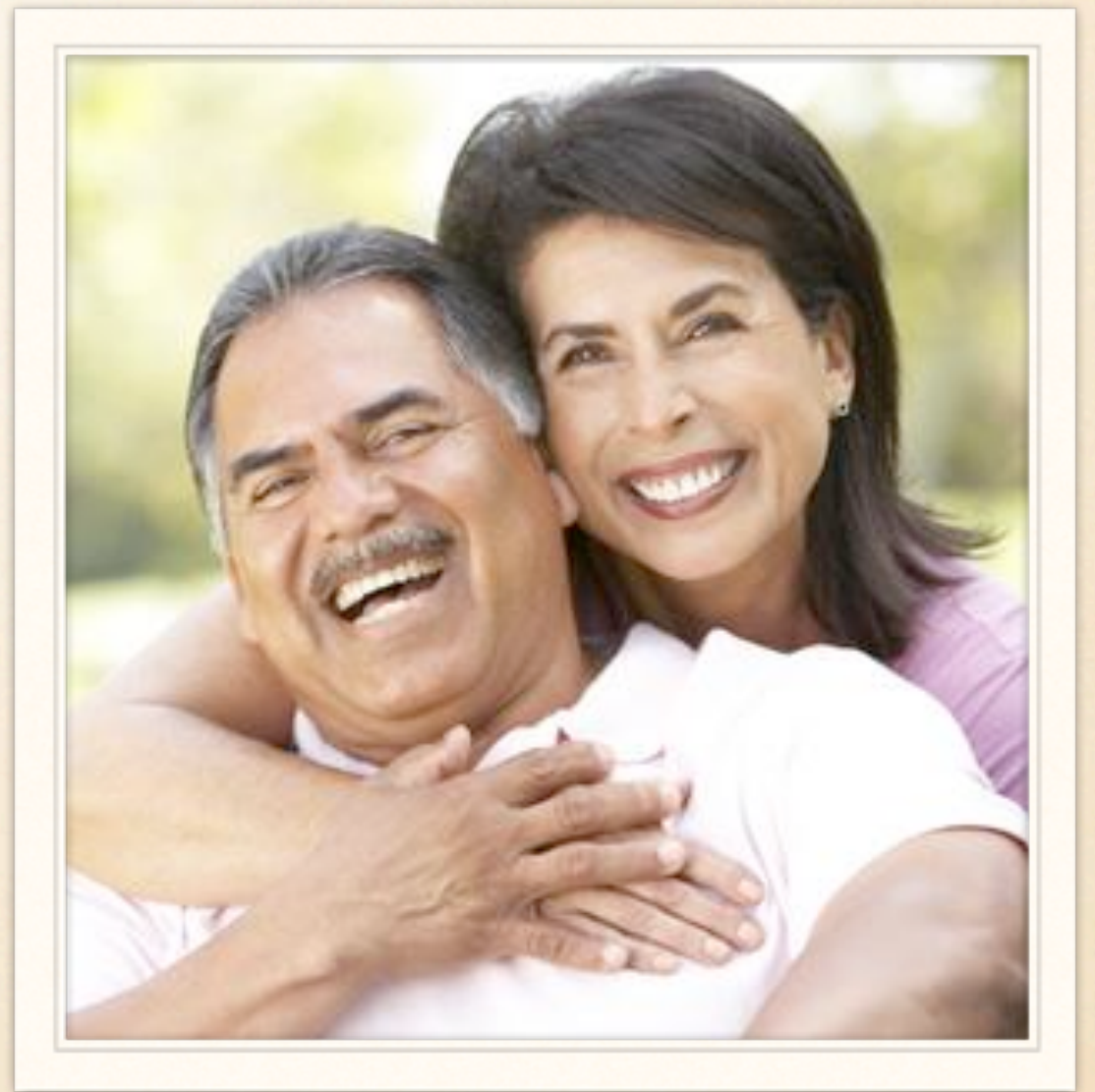
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- ~ Proverbs 28:14 (NKJV) 14
Happy is the man who is
always reverent, But he who
hardens his heart will fall into
calamity.
- ~ Proverbs 29:18 (NKJV) 18
Where there is no revelation,
the people cast off restraint;
But happy is he who keeps the
law.

God Wants Me To Be Happy!

GOD WANTS US TO ENJOY LIFE HERE ON EARTH, AND BE HAPPY

- ◆ He wants us to enjoy the rewards of our labor - Ecclesiastes 2:24-26; 3:12,13,22
- ◆ However - the book of Ecclesiastes also indicates that we may not - life under the sun should not be our primary pursuit - Eccle. 1:2,14; 2:1,11; 4:1-16; 9:2,3; 11:9-12:14

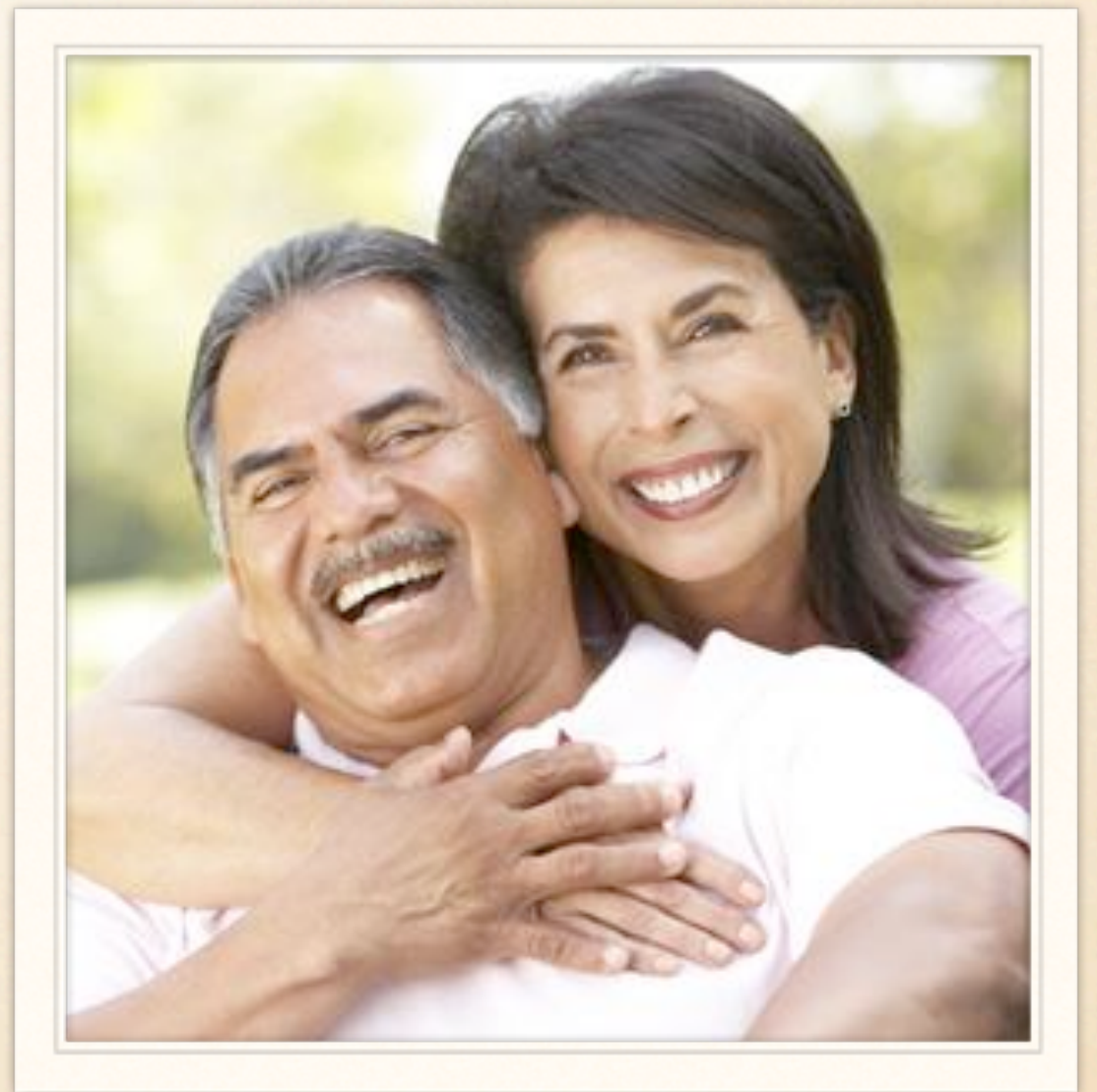


God Wants Me To Be Happy!

GOD WANTS US TO ENJOY LIFE HERE ON EARTH, AND BE HAPPY

♦ **Serve God and others.**

- * The wise man said, "He who has mercy on the poor, happy is he" (Prov 14:21).
- * Jesus washed disciples feet & said, "I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done to you. . . If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:15, 17).



God Wants Me To Be Happy!

GOD WANTS US TO ENJOY LIFE HERE ON EARTH, AND BE HAPPY

◆ **Control Your Thoughts.**

- * We can change our lives by changing our attitudes. We are what we think - (cf. Proverbs 23:7).
- * Learn to think on "these things" - Phil 4:8-9 (true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous & praiseworthy) these do, and the God of peace will be with you."

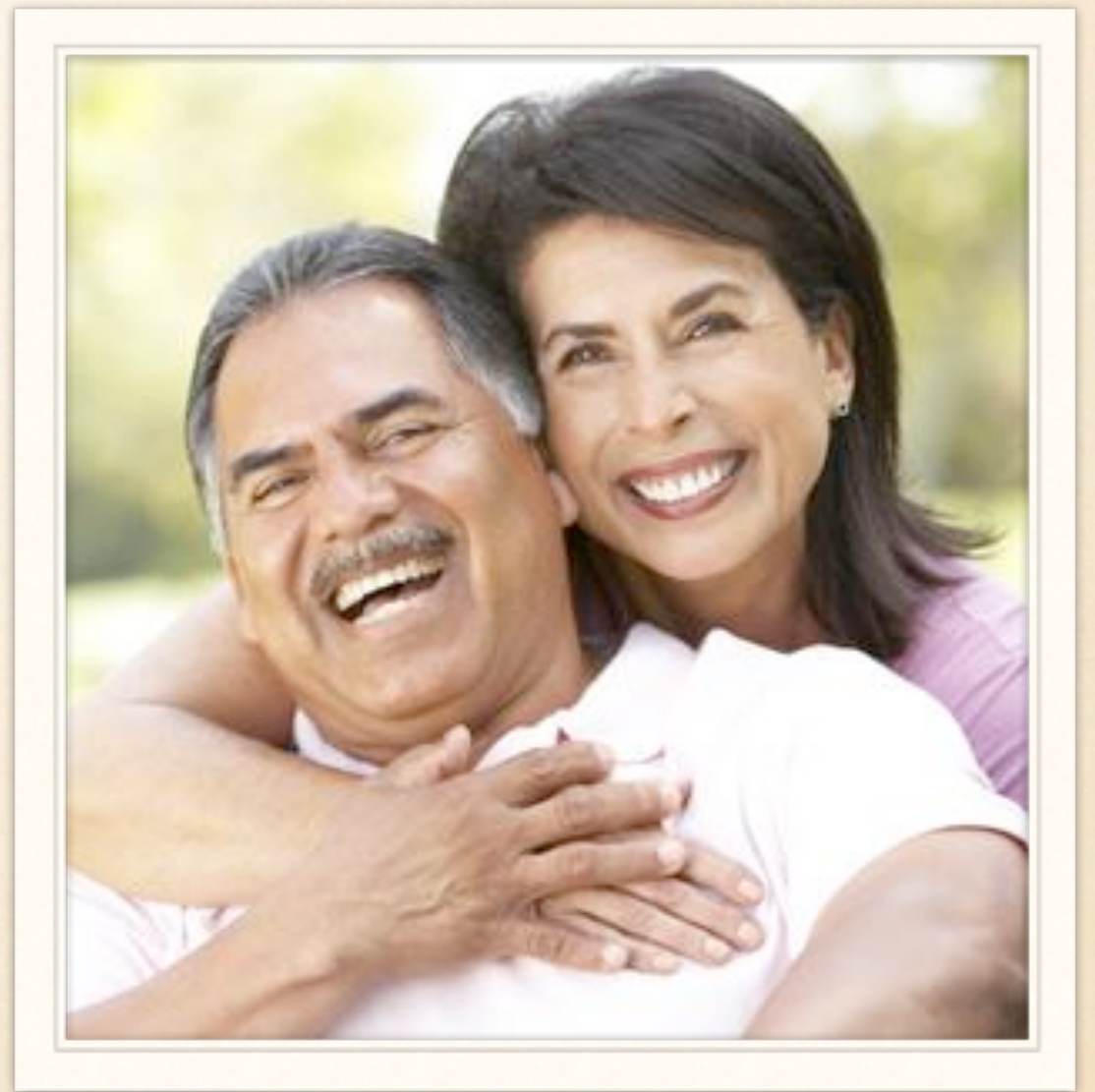


God Wants Me To Be Happy!

GOD WANTS US TO ENJOY LIFE HERE ON EARTH, AND BE HAPPY

♦ **Avoid sin and guilt.**

- * Sin promises pleasure but brings guilt & misery. - (Psalms 38:4).
- * Sin is the cause for all our troubles & pain - (Gen 3)
- * If we fail to avoid sin, all is not lost; we can still find happiness by finding forgiveness - (Psalm 51:7-8)



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GOD WANTS US TO ENJOY LIFE HERE ON EARTH, AND BE HAPPY

◆ **Learn to be content.**

- * Being content with our current physical circumstances is a learned quality - Phili 4:11
- * Based upon our trust in God "... be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" (Heb 13:5).



God Wants Me To Be Happy!

GOD WANTS US TO ENJOY LIFE HERE ON EARTH, AND BE HAPPY

♦ **Count your blessings.**

- * Consider the material blessings we do have - (James 1:17)
- * Consider the spiritual blessings we have in Christ - (Eph. 1:3-13)
- * Even in the face of loss, we have many things for which we should be thankful - (Phili 4:6)

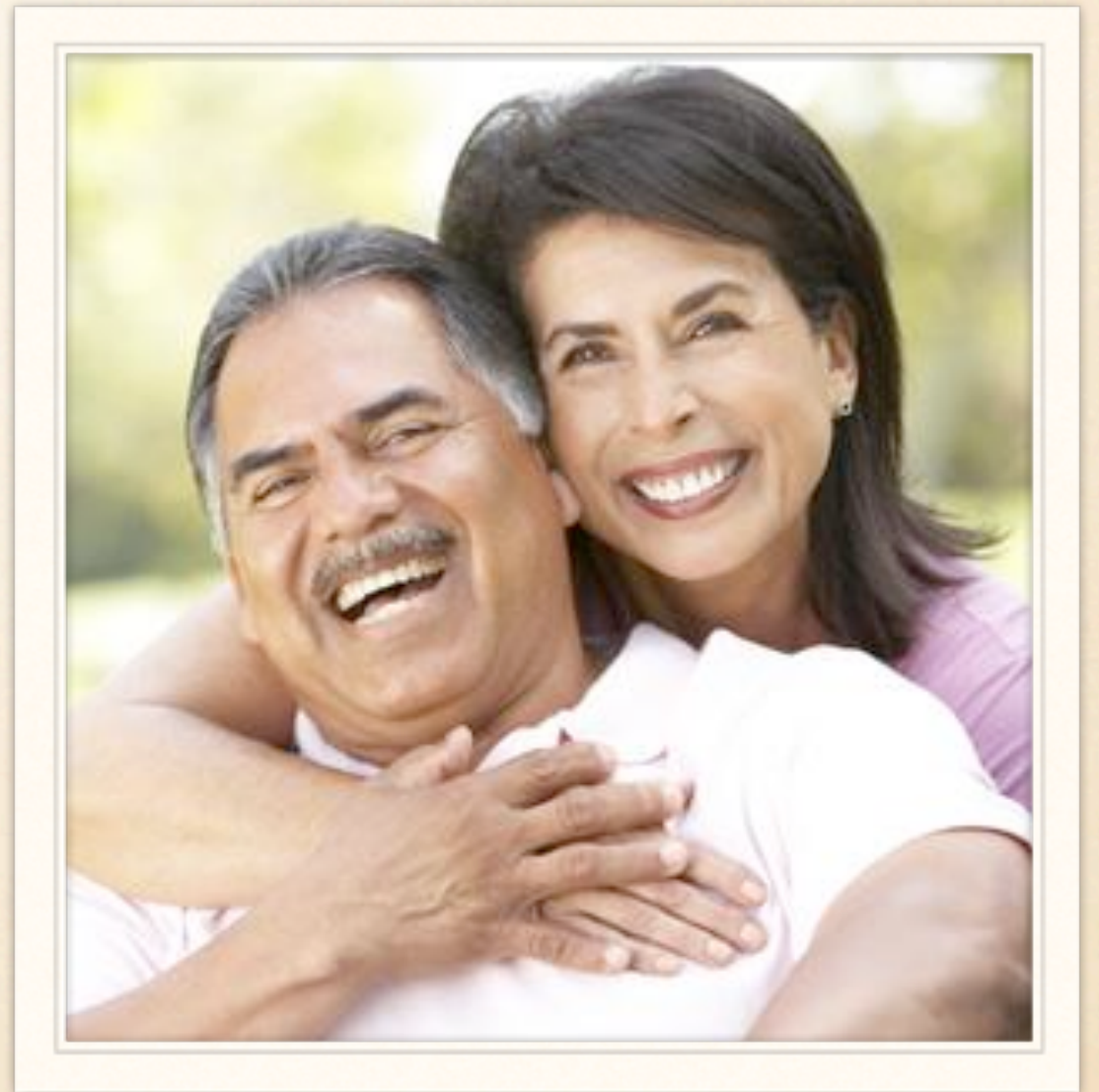


God Wants Me To Be Happy!

GOD WANTS US TO ENJOY LIFE HERE ON EARTH, AND BE HAPPY

◆ **Focus on spiritual things.**

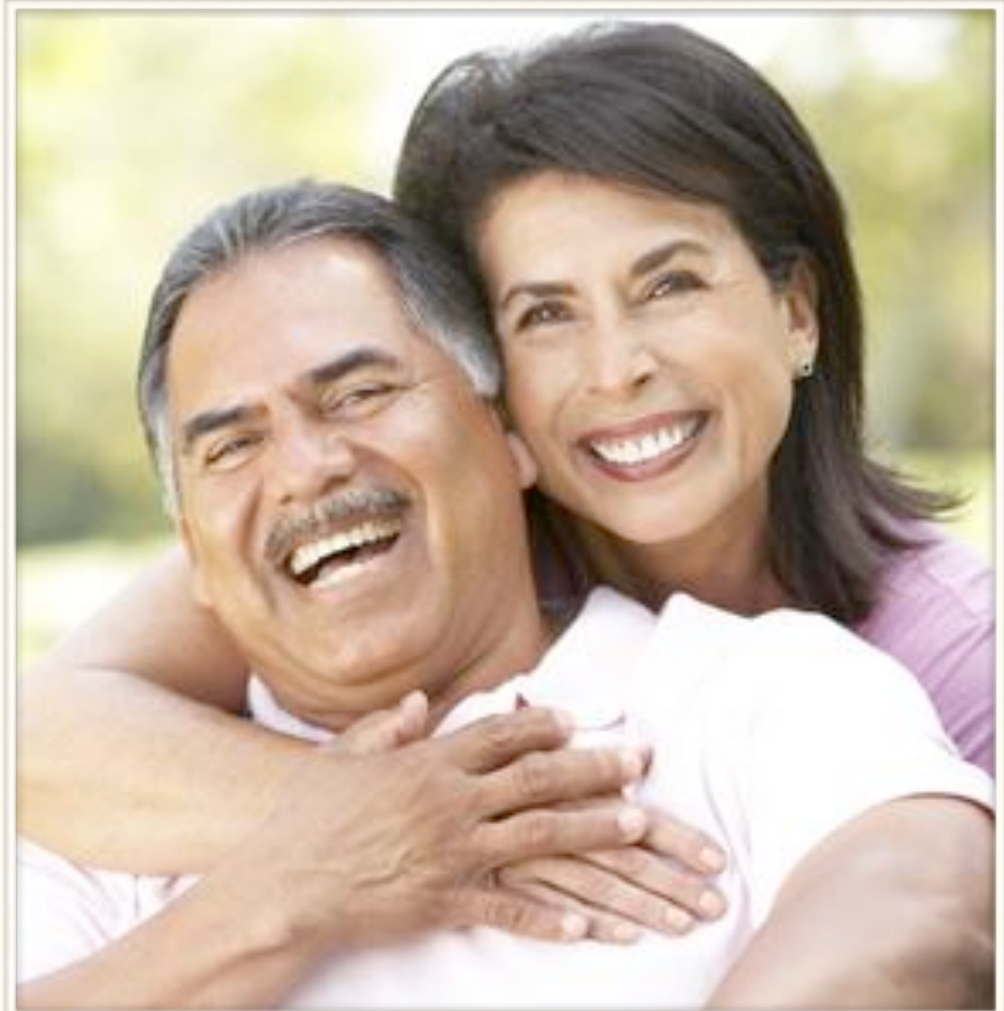
- * Earthly things will always fade away and disappoint - cannot provide lasting happiness. (Mat 6:19-34)
- * "Do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Cor 4:18)



God Wants Me To Be Happy!

GOD WANTS US TO ENJOY LIFE HERE ON EARTH, AND BE HAPPY

God wants us
to live joyfully,
to see good
days - 1 Peter
3:8-17 (NKJV)



GOD WANTS YOU TO BE HAPPY

1 Peter 3:8-17 (NKJV)

⁸ Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. ¹¹ Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

GOD WANTS YOU TO BE HAPPY

1 Peter 3:8-17 (NKJV)

¹² For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil." ¹³ And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."

GOD WANTS YOU TO BE HAPPY

1 Peter 3:8-17 (NKJV)

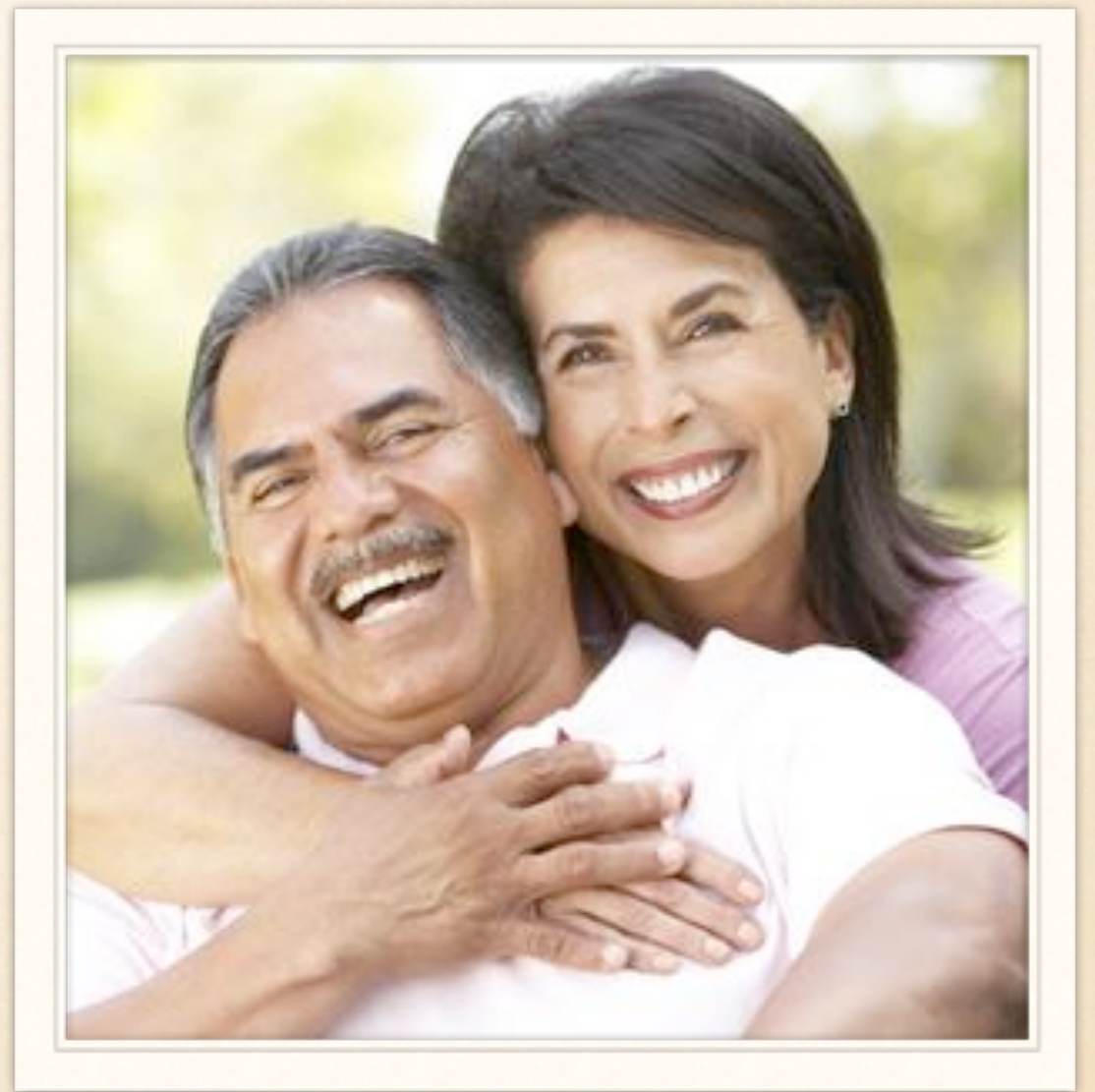
¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; ¹⁶ having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

God Wants Me To Be Happy!

GOD WANTS US TO ENJOY LIFE HERE ON EARTH, AND BE HAPPY

**More than God
wanting me to be
happy, He wants
me to be holy!! -**

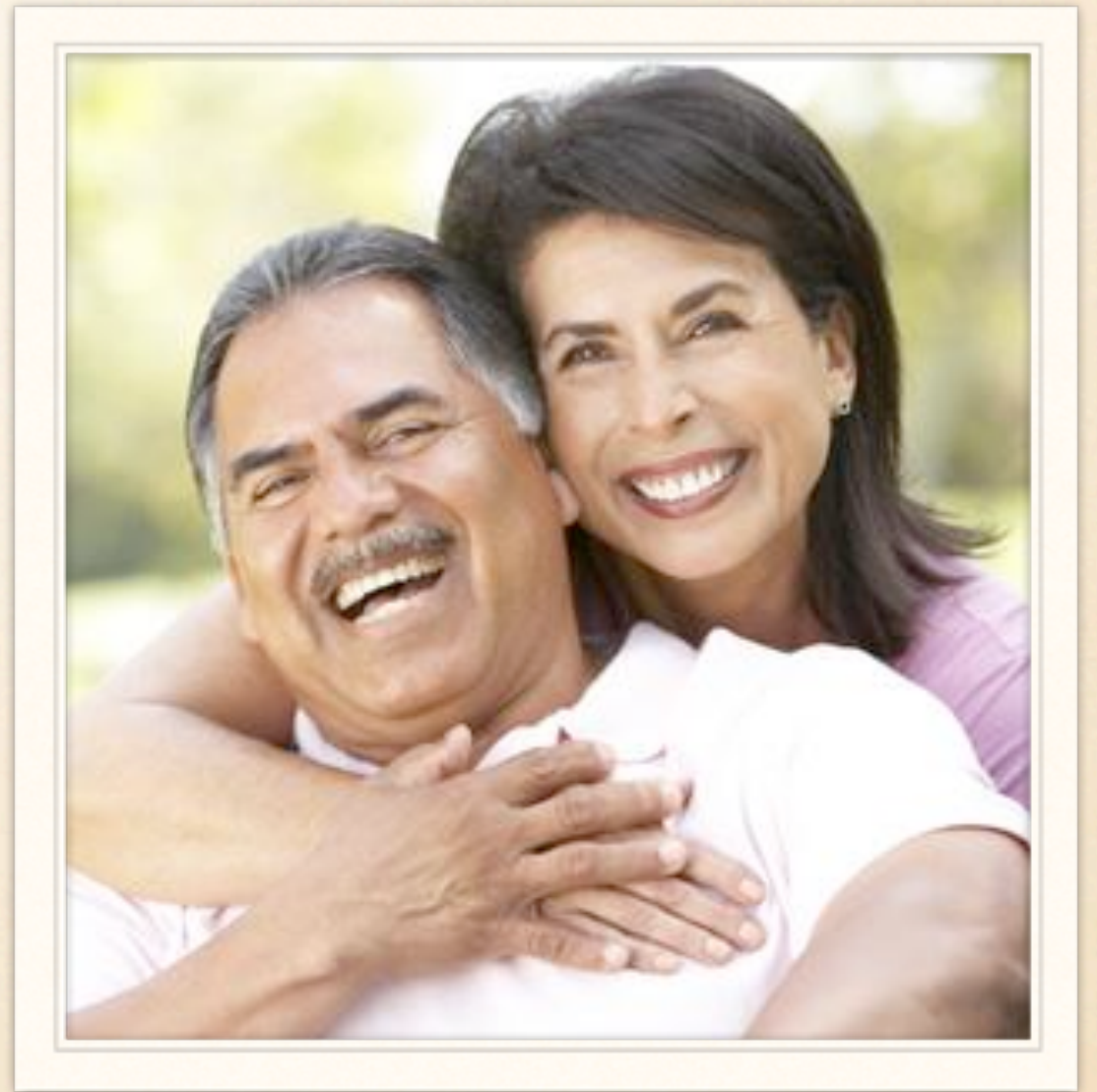
(2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; Eph.
1:3-4; Heb. 12:10; 1 Pet.
1:15,16; 1 Pet. 2:5,9; 2
Pet. 3:11).



God Wants Me To Be Happy!

GOD WANTS US TO ENJOY LIFE HERE ON EARTH, AND BE HAPPY

- ◆ God does not want us to be "happy" if it involves sin, false doctrine, causing another to stumble, fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, or the pursuit of personal lusts.
- ◆ Real happiness is a product of being right with God (1 Pet. 3:8-12).



God Wants Me To Be Happy!

IF I WERE . . . / IF I HAD . . . / IF I COULD . . .

Outside of
God's will
there are no
“successes.”

In God's will
there are no
“failures.”

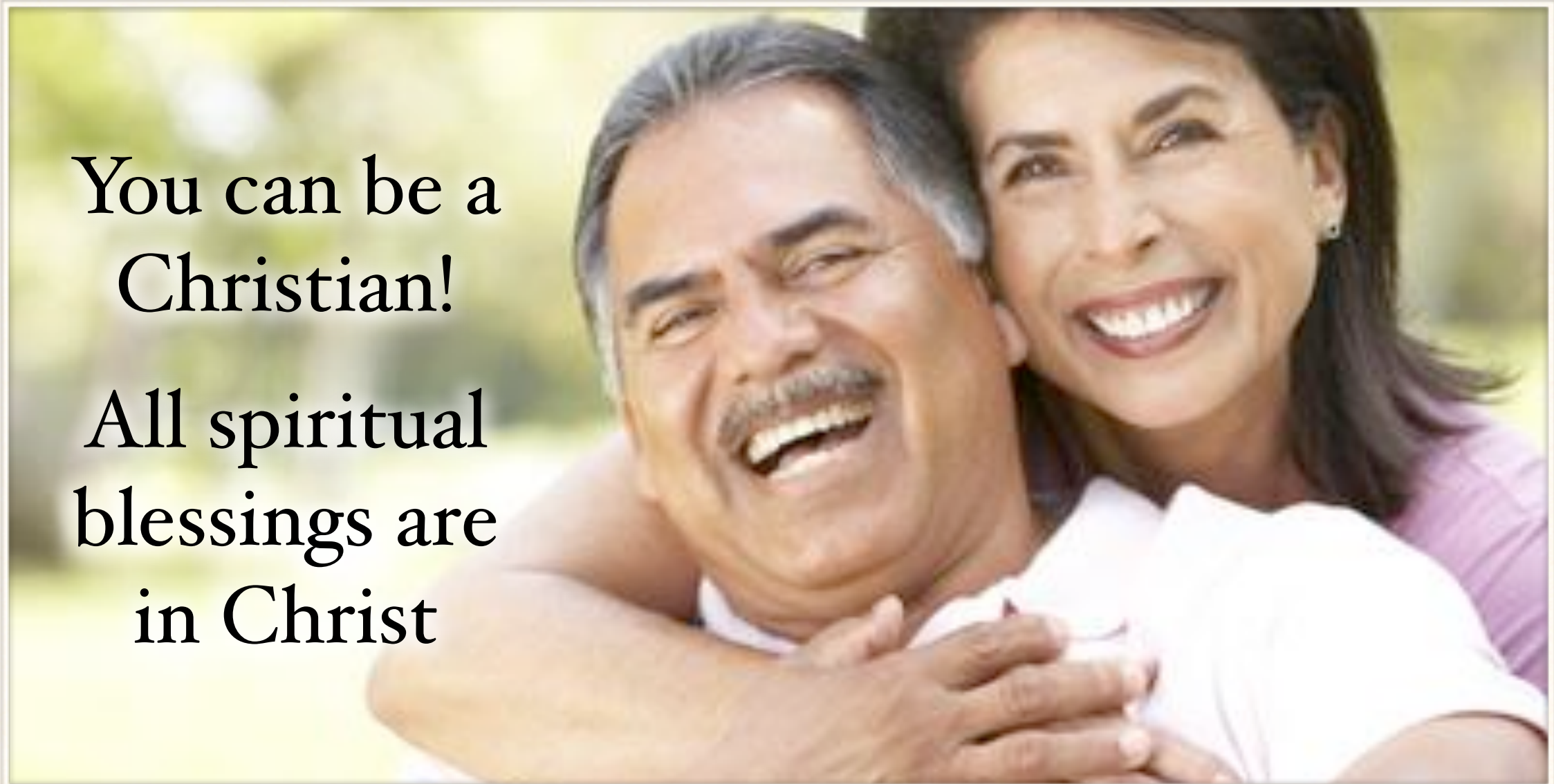


God Wants Me To Be Happy!

IF I WERE . . . / IF I HAD . . . / IF I COULD . . .

You can be a
Christian!

All spiritual
blessings are
in Christ



God Wants Me To Be Happy!

IF I WERE . . . / IF I HAD . . . / IF I COULD . . .

Even if in this
life we suffer,
face hardships,
face great loss
- in Christ we
can find
comfort, joy,
peace & hope!



I WOULD BE HAPPY IF TRUE HAPPINESS IS ONLY FOUND IN GOD

Charts by Don McClain

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Psalm 146:1-10 (NKJV)

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD,
O my soul! ² While I live I will praise
the LORD; I will sing praises to my
God while I have my being. ³ Do not
put your trust in princes, Nor in a son
of man, in whom there is no help. ⁴
His spirit departs, he returns to his
earth; In that very day his plans
perish.

Psalm 146:1-10 (NKJV)

⁵ Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the LORD his God, ⁶ Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever, ⁷ Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.

Psalm 146:1-10 (NKJV)

⁸ The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; The LORD raises those who are bowed down; The LORD loves the righteous. ⁹ The LORD watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; But the way of the wicked He turns upside down. ¹⁰ The LORD shall reign forever-- Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!