

BE HAPPY

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled”. Matthew 5:6

As I have studied the scriptures, I have found that there is a direct connection between happiness and hunger. The word *Blessed* means *Happy*. The Christian life is a happy life and real happiness is found only in Christ.

The way happiness is expressed in the Bible goes against the grain of our thinking. The words of Christ point out a poverty that is profitable, a patience that possesses, and a persecution that is pleasing. You will find this concept throughout the New Testament.

We do without to have. We lose to gain.

We die to live. We decrease to increase.

We fail to succeed. We become fools to become wise.

We become empty to be full. We become blind to see.

We become poor to become rich.

We are made victims to be made victorious.

The verse in Matthew 5:6 is a vivid illustration of how the Gospel goes against the grain of our thinking. Jesus is speaking of those who are hungry and thirsty, yet happy. We would think that this is a condition which would produce sadness, but Jesus turns the whole situation around (like he usually does) and talks about a happiness which contradicts every human concept.

A happy life is divinely given. It is only given by God and it surpasses anything that the world has to offer.



Happiness is one thing which is sought by everyone, but it is only found by a few.

These words of Jesus compare the few of those who have found the secret to a happy life with the many who are still searching for it. He did not say that happiness is ours when we are hungry for happiness alone. Some people are desperately hungry for a happiness which is seemingly beyond their reach. Some will do anything, go anywhere, give anything, or give up anything to get it. The

happiness seems to always escape their grasp and they are constantly crashing and burning from despair. Jesus did not say that happiness is for everybody. It is only for those who are willing to pay GOD's price for it.

What would you be willing to pay for happiness?

What is the real price for happiness? It is not money, but it is hungering and thirsting after righteousness. It is a promise that Jesus has made to those who love Him and man's power cannot produce this kind of happiness. I am convinced that one finds happiness only in a right relationship with God. **True happiness is never a reality for those who live in disobedience to the Word of God.**



The Bible tells us how David lost the joy of God's salvation when he walked in disobedience with Bathsheba. It only came back to him after he repented, sought God for forgiveness, and walked in true obedience.

During this time of fasting and prayer, the appetite that you should enlarge is spiritual and not physical. As you have probably found out over the past four days, the physical appetite is large enough! To grow your appetite for God does not come automatically by itself. We must seek after Him. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Purpose in your heart to make changes in your life that are not just for this month, but will last the rest of your life. I believe that this is a time when the chains of darkness which have held us hostage through our habits and attitudes can be broken from our lives forever.

As we usually do, we will abstain from carbonated drinks, coffee, tea, and sweets. Try to avoid these items and those that resemble sweets like sugar-free cookies, etc. during the remainder of our consecration. Refrain from those things that you have already removed. I appreciate so many of you being in prayer on Friday night. If you are on medical treatment that would prohibit you from fasting in this way, please call the office and ask for Loretta Lloyd, and she will assist you with a modified program. We ask that you eat your one meal a day after 6PM.

**Fast in secret. Please do not stop taking medications.
You may need a modified fast for those requiring food.**

We will have our Prayer Service on Monday (7PM) and Friday (7:30PM) of this week. I would like to see more of you at prayer.

Our Corporate Prayer Objectives

The Salvation of Souls, Church Maturity, Our Nation and Troops, The Upcoming Retreats.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Earl & Denise Goings