



Open Arms Evangelistic Ministries



Reaching the World Through the Gospel of Jesus Christ

## *True Joy*

Someone said, “A smile can add a great deal to one’s face value.” Someone else said concerning smiling, “A smile is the most important thing one can wear.” Thomas Jefferson said, “The road to happiness is forever under construction.” It is God’s desire that we be happy. That does not mean we will never face trials or hard times. Happiness is from the Lord, not this world we live in.

Someone with a good sense of humor said, “A person who can smile when things go wrong has probably just thought of someone to blame.” A very wise person said, “If we are good Christians, it should take little to make us happy and much to make us unhappy.” John Stuart Mill said, “I have learned to seek my happiness by limiting my desires rather than attempting to satisfy them.”

Too often our eyes are on the things of this world rather than the things of heaven. Many people tend to follow their flesh nature and not their spirit. Before we set our hearts too much on anything, let us examine how happy they are who already possess them. The world is full of people who have lots of material things but still are not happy. When someone once asked William Booth his secret to happiness, he replied, “I never say no to the Lord.”

Jesus said in John 15:11-12, “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” This is the secret to true happiness. It is in our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the reason that our joy should be full. It is not about things – it is about His presence. If we want true peace, joy, and happiness, it must come from Jesus who is the source.

Discouragement is an enemy to happiness. Satan will attempt to give us temporary joy, but it will not last. Only God, through Jesus, can give us real joy and peace. Satan wants us to look at what we don’t have instead of what we do have. People and material things can only bring short-term happiness; but Jesus gives joy and life abundantly. Romans 8:28 says it best, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

Genuine joy and happiness do not depend upon our friends, family, finances, health, position, education, situations, or even our circumstances – they depend upon our relationship with Jesus and God. If you are not happy today, it is your choice. Your happiness is a state of mind in Christ Jesus. It is not just the way you are, but it is the way you choose to be. God and Jesus are the source of all true joy and happiness. Put your faith and trust in them. You do not have to be unhappy any longer. There is joy, peace, and happiness in the Lord. Get your eyes off of this world, and get your eyes on Jesus.

Ask Jesus to fill you with His joy today!

Dr. Glenn Mills