

Following the Cross and Finding Joy

Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires. Don't toss me aside, banished forever from your presence. Don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me again the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. Psalms 51:10-12 Living Bible

Write three things that you think a Christian needs to do; to successfully live a joy filled life?

1)

2)

3)

What makes you happy?

1)

2)

3)

Psalms 43:4-5 -⁴ There I will go to the altar of God my exceeding joy, and praise Him with my harp. O God-my God! ⁵ O my soul, why be so gloomy and discouraged? Trust in God! I shall again praise Him for His wondrous help; He will make me smile again, for He is my God!

El Simchah Giyl (pronounced "L Sim-Khaw Gheel") - It means "God My Exceeding Joy"

Step 1- It's All In the Attitude

- *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:5*

A) ...You Can Be Pitiful or Powerful, But Not Both!

- *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2*

A Pitiful Person:

- 1) Is always feeling sorry for themselves
- 2) Always blames others for their problems
- 3) Never makes an attempt to make a positive change in their lives
- 4) Are usually very selfish individuals
- 5) Always complains
- 6) Never satisfied
- 7) They are angry and bitter individuals because of their circumstances

Proverbs 15:14-15

¹⁴ The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feed on folly. ¹⁵ All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feasts.

Poor _____happen one decision at a time! The _____of your _____will determine the _____ of your life.

*(Refer to the wisdom and foolishness chart)

How can we go from being a pitiful person into a powerful Christian?

- 1) By allowing God to give us a _____mind. 1Cor 2:14-16
- 2) What is the mind of Christ like?
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)
 - e)
 - f)

We need to guard our mind against:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

B) ...It's All In A Word

⁹ Sometimes (the tongue) praises our heavenly Father, and sometimes it breaks out into curses against men who are made like God. ¹⁰ And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Dear brothers, surely this is not right. ¹¹ Does a spring of water bubble out first with fresh water and then with bitter water? ¹² Can you pick olives from a fig tree, or figs from a grape vine? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty pool. James 3:9-12 Living Bible

Do you need to have a “tongue check”? Yes _____ or No _____

Proverbs 21:23

Keep your mouth closed and you'll stay out of trouble. (Living Bible)

Where else in the bible does it talk about when to keep quiet?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)

There are 4 different types of tongues described in Proverbs:

- 1) The _____tongue 10:19; 12:16; 13:3; 15:1; 16:23; 17:14
- 2) The _____tongue 10:32; 12:18; 15:23; 16:24; 25:15; 27:9
- 3) The _____tongue 6:12-14; 8:13; 16:28; 18:8; 25:18; 26:20-28
- 4) The _____tongue 10:18; 11:9; 12:16; 18; 15:4; 17:9; 20:19; 25:23

What kind of tongue are you?

Remember - It's all in the attitude!!!!!!!

Step 2- Where's The Evidence?

¹ I know your reputation as a live and active church, but you are dead! ² Now wake up! Strengthen what little remains - for even what is left is at the point of death. Your deeds are far from right in the sight of God. ³ Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly and turn to me again. Unless you do, I will come suddenly upon you, unexpected as a thief, and punish you. Revelations 3:1-3 (Living)

A)... I Surrender Some

¹⁵ I know you well - you are neither hot nor cold; I wish you were one or the other ¹⁶But since you are merely lukewarm, I will spit you out of my mouth! ¹⁷ You say, "I am rich, with everything I want; I don't need a thing!" And you don't realize that spiritually you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

Revelations 3:15-17 (Living Bible)

What kind of believer are you?

- 1) Hot Yes_____ or No_____
- 2) Cold Yes_____ or No_____
- 3) Lukewarm Yes_____ or No_____

B)...The Double Agent

²⁷ *Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like the whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. ²⁸ In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. Matthew 23:27-28*

How do we overcome intentional and unintentional hypocrisy?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)

What does God see when He holds you up to the light?

(Write a sincere honest answer)

Step 3 - Trust And Obey For There's No Other Way

- *If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine.* Matthew 10:38 (Living Bible)

1) What has been “hard to hear” for you this weekend?

2) What would you like to have in common with God?

A)...It's all Behind You!

- ³⁵*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?* ³⁶*As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.* ³⁷*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* ³⁸*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power,* ³⁹*Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Romans 8:35-39) NIV

You Can Experience Joy!!