

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY IN LIFE
LEARN HOW TO BE HAPPY “NO MATTER WHAT”

ONE OF THE COMMON MISTAKES WE ALL MAKE IS THAT WE FALL INTO THE TRAP OF WHAT IS CALLED, WHEN AND THEN THINKING.

THERE ARE FOUR COMMON BARRIERS TO HAPPINESS.

1. Pain
2. People
3. Pressure
4. Problems

Phil. 1:12-29, “But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again. Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.” (NKJV)

HOW TO BE HAPPY NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS

I. YOU CAN BE HAPPY NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN YOUR LIFE IF YOU LOOK AT EVERY PROBLEM FROM GOD'S VIEWPOINT.

Rom. 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”(NKJV)

- A. The truth is that no matter what's going on in your life - the good, the bad and the ugly, God is working out a plan.

Phil. 1:12, "But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel."(NKJV)

- B. There were two results of Paul being in prison, that we know of for sure.

1. Some of Caesar's own family became believers.

Phil. 4:21-22, "Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household."(NKJV)

2. He writes under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit much of the New Testament Scriptures that we have in our Bible today.

- C. Anytime you have a problem and it's starting to get you down, you're starting to be unhappy, you need to do what Paul does - learn to see it from God's point of view.

- D. When you face the problem with faith, two things will happen:

1. First it's a witness to unbelievers.

Phil. 1:13, "For everyone around here, including all the soldiers over at the barracks, knows that I am in chains simply because I am a Christian."(TLB)

2. It's an encouragement to believers.

Phil. 1:14, "And because of my imprisonment, many of the Christians here seem to have lost their fear of chains! Somehow my patience has encouraged them, and they have become more and more bold in telling others about Christ." (TLB)

Next Week

II. YOU CAN BE HAPPY NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU NEVER LET OTHERS CONTROL YOUR ATTITUDE.