

Don't Settle For Happiness

"Fulfilled", Part 3
Turan Erdogan

"But the fruit of the Spirit is...joy..." (Galatians 5:22b)

I) ON THE HUNT FOR HAPPINESS....

Why Happiness Isn't All It's Cracked Up To Be

A) It's determined by ___HAPPENINGS___ we can't control.

B) It's dependant on ___OUR NEEDS___ not other's needs.

C) It's destined to ___FAIL___ the more we try to find it.

"I got whatever I wanted and did whatever made me happy... then I thought about everything I had done, including the hard work, and it was simply chasing the wind. Nothing on earth is worth the trouble." (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11)

II) ON THE JOURNEY FOR JOY.....

Why Joy Always Beats Happiness

A) Joy comes by ___CHOICE___ not ___CHANCE___.

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4)

B) Joy comes from ___INSIDE___ not ___OUTSIDE___.

"Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to everlasting life.'" (John 4:13-14)

C) Joy comes through ___FAITH___ not ___FAKING IT___.

"We are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and heard, so that you may share the fellowship and the joys we have with the Father and with Jesus Christ his Son. And if you do as I say in this letter, then you too will be full of joy, and so will we." (1 John 1:3-4, LB)

III) HOW TO BUILD A LIFE OF JOY

How To Maintain Joy In Any Situation

(from Romans 5:1-11)

*The basis for lasting joy is a ___LONG-RANGE PERSPECTIVE___.

Attitude #1) Reflect on your ___PROMISED HOPE___ in God.

"Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. He has brought us, by faith, into this experience of God's grace in which we now live. We rejoice, then, in the hope we have in sharing God's glory!" (Romans 5:1-2, TEV)

Attitude #2) Remember your PROBLEMS HAVE A PURPOSE from God.

"And we also rejoice in our troubles, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance brings God's approval, and His approval creates hope. This hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us." (Romans 5:3-5, TEV)

Attitude #3) Realize your YOUR POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIP w/ God.

"But that is not all; we rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has now made us God's friends." (Romans 5:11, TEV)

"When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us. Now... someone might be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

(Romans 5:6-8, NLT)