

Life, liberty, and THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

[Philippians 4:13](#)

13

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Introduction:

a. Life

[John 10:10](#)

10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

b. Liberty

[James 1:25](#)

25

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

c. Happiness

[Philippians 4:4](#)

4

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

I. Everyone wants to be happy:

A. The Declaration of Independence assures the right to pursue happiness.

B. Happiness is where you look for it.

II. There are two places to look for happiness:

A. I can look for happiness outwardly:

1. Do circumstances determine happiness?
2. Am I happy only when things are going well?
3. Am I unhappy when things are not going well?
4. Does happiness equal happenings?

B. I can look for happiness inwardly

[Galatians 5:22,23](#)

22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23

Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

III. Why aren't all happy?

A. Philippians chapter one uses joy and rejoicing about 11 times – one example
[Philippians 1:26](#).

26

That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

B. The correct mind produces the correct attitude

[Philippians 4:2](#)

2

I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

C. There is a correlation between joy and mental state.

IV. Paul was happy in all circumstances:

A. He was happy when circumstances were unfair

[Philippians 1:12-14](#)

12

But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

13

So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

14

And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

B. He was happy in the face of unloving people

[Philippians 1:15-18](#)

15

Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

16

The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

17

But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

18

What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

C. He was happy while facing an uncertain future

[Philippians 1:19,20](#)

19

For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20

According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

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D. He was happy because of an unchanging relationship with God

[Philippians 1:21](#)

21

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.