

Lies We Believe: God wants me to be happy?

Various Texts

The Claim: "God wants me to be happy."

- Underlying premise: The most important thing in life is my happiness
 - Can be used to try to justify sinful behavior

Scripture's Truth

- Happiness is a fleeting emotion
 - It is based in our circumstances
- God's desire is for us to be:
 - Blessed: Having His hand upon us
 - This happens as a result of our obedience to Him (Deut. 28:2; see also Deut. 11:27; Gen. 22:18; John 13:15-17)
 - Joyful: A settled assurance that comes from knowing God is in control, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation
 - Unconditional

Trials that Bring Joy (James 1:2-4,12)

- Sometimes God brings trials into our lives
 - Their purpose is NOT to make us happy
 - Their purpose is to help us grow
- God's ultimate purpose is to make us more like Jesus (Rom 8:28-29)
- Jesus endured hardship because it brought joy (Heb. 12:1-2)
 - We are called to do the same

So What?

- God wants us to be blessed and joyful; and ultimately to be like Jesus!
- Are we focused on being obedient and growing in Christ-likeness?

Meditation Verse: Hebrews 12:1-2