

Doctrinal Studies

Keys to Happiness

1. Set priorities in order – God first! Seek knowledge of God; be compatible with His plan of Grace for you as a Born-again Believer. Ephesians 2:8-10; Colossians 1:10; Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalms 1; Matthew 6:19-21; Matthew 6:24-34.
2. Recognize Jesus Christ as the source of all life. The fullness of the Godhead was in Christ before the incarnation as well as during. He is co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Know your identity with and position in the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 4:13; Romans 6:3-13; Romans 8:16-17; Colossian 1:14-19; I Peter 2:1-10; I Peter 1:3-12; John 10-30
3. View life from a divine perspective with a relaxed mental attitude. Have inner joy in the sphere of confidence with greater insight to the future. III John 3-4; II Peter 1:5-8; Matthew 6:24-34
4. Relate everything to the Lord Jesus Christ. Evaluate motives daily. Does it bring honor and glory to God? Colossians 3:1-17; Colossians 1:23-29
5. Know that God's timing is perfect. Believers are to demonstrate their faith by trusting and resting in the Lord. Depend upon the integrity of God. Genesis 22:1-14; II Samuel 22:31; Psalms 9:9; II Corinthians 5:7.
6. Apply impersonal, unconditional love to all people. Be tender and patient with the young, respectful and compassionate with the aged, sympathetic and tolerant of the weak believer. At some time in your life you will have been all of these. John 15:12; Ephesians 5:1-2; I Corinthians 13:4-8a.
7. Realize that suffering is a necessary part of Christian advance. It develops our faith and demonstrates the sufficiency of God's Grace. There is no problem in life for which God does not have a solution. He is faithful in times of intense conflict. I Corinthians 10:13; II Corinthians 12:7-10; James 5:10-13.
8. Keep short accounts with God by utilizing I John 1:9 daily. Restoration of fellowship is a manifestation of Grace, confess the sin, forget it and move on. Amos 3:3.

Doctrinal Studies (continued)

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9. Spend time daily in the Word of God. Study, pray, receive teaching from the right communicator. Historical, exegetical, categorical Bible study is necessary training to be productive and useful to God. Think clearly, take notes and stay in harmony with God. II Timothy 2:15; Jude 3-25 (emphasis on 20-21); Ephesians 4:12.
10. Maintain an attitude of gratitude. Never forget your victories and from whence they come. Be aware of God's Grace working daily in your life, even moment to moment. James 1:2-5; 12-18; Colossians 1:9-13; Psalms 138:1-8 Psalms 139.
11. Know and claim God's promises. Embrace His principles and utilize Biblical concepts and doctrines. Learn from mistakes by applying wisdom. Proverbs 2:1-22; Proverbs 3:1-26; Joshua 1:8; I John 5:1-5.
12. Remember that the earth is not our real home. The details and material things of this life are only temporal. We are in the world, but not of the world. I John 2:15-17; Hebrews 11:16-17; John 17:6-16.
13. Know that we are pressing on to maturity and beyond. "Keep on keeping on" in spiritual advance. Remember this is God's plan for your life. Colossians 1:9; Philippians 2:5, Philippians 3:13-14.
14. Be aware of the need of a close relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ through study, prayer and church attendance. Let the mind of Christ reign in you Philippians 2:5; Colossians 2:6; I Thessalonians 4:1; Matthew 11:29; John 13:15; Hebrews 10:25
15. Never forget that God's Grace is the only way to go through this life. Try to look at all things in the light of eternity. Resolve to live your life as the child of Light that you are. I John 1:7; Philippians 2:13; I Corinthians 1:10-11; Psalms 94:17-19; I Thessalonians 3:10-13; Philippians 1:9-11.