

different.

A SERIES ON GIVING

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Happiness... What is it?

Psalm 97:12 *May all who are godly be happy in the Lord and crown him, our holy God.*

If God wants me happy above all else, then whatever makes me happy must be right, and whatever makes me unhappy must be wrong.

- We start to believe that discomfort, delay, risk, suffering, inconveniences and obstacles can't possibly be God's will.
- When we believe that above all else, God wants us happy, suddenly we are forced to believe that God exists to serve us.

God does not exist to serve us. We exist to serve God.

- So many people end up walking away from God for totally completely wrong reasons, because of wrong beliefs.

God doesn't want you happy when it causes you to do something wrong or unwise.

1 Peter 1:15 *But just as He who called you is happy, so be happy in all you do.*

God doesn't want you happy is when it's only based on the things of this world.

1 John 2:15-17 *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them. For everything in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life, comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires, they pass away. They're gone, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.*

God does not want you happy as much as God wants you blessed.

- A blessed life is based on His goodness and His presence.
- What it means is, you will experience the goodness of God in the middle of some of the difficulties of life. Your happiness and the blessings are not based on the perfect pain-free life. God never promises that.

In the middle of the storm, you could have a blessing.

John 16:33 *I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*

James 1:2-4 *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

Therefore, lower your expectations of Earth. You're not created for Earth. You're created for Heaven.