

DO YOU MAKE GOD HAPPY?

INTRODUCTION:

Revelation 3:14-16 (NKJV) ¹⁴“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Romans 12:9-13 (NKJV) ⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹not lagging in diligence, **FERVENT IN SPIRIT, SERVING THE LORD**; ¹²rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Job 22:1-7 (NKJV) ¹Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

² “Can a man be profitable to God, though he who is wise may be profitable to himself?

³ **Is it any pleasure to the Almighty that you are righteous? Or is it gain to Him that you make your ways blameless? ?** *(Job’s friend wrongly thought the answer was NO!)*

⁴ “Is it because of your fear of Him that He corrects you, and enters into judgment with you?

⁵ *Is not your wickedness great, and your iniquity without end?*

⁶ For you have taken pledges from your brother for no reason, and stripped the naked of their clothing.

⁷ You have not given the weary water to drink, and you have withheld bread from the hungry.

I. What If You Really Believed That God Takes Great Pleasure In You?

Would you be fervent in spirit?

Psalms 147:11 -- The Lord **takes pleasure in those who fear Him**, in those who hope in His mercy.

Psalms 149:4 -- For the Lord **takes pleasure in His people**; He will beautify the humble with salvation.

Zephaniah 3:17 -- For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.

1 Chronicles 29:17 -- I know also, my God, that You test the heart and **have pleasure in uprightness**. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.

II. GOD’S GREAT PLEASURE... is to adopt us and give us the kingdom.

Ephesians 1:5 -- having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good **pleasure** of His will,

Ephesians 1:9 -- having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good **pleasure** which He purposed in Himself,

Luke 12:32 -- “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good **pleasure** to give you the kingdom.

Isaiah 53:10 -- **Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him**; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the **pleasure** of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

Ezekiel 18:23 -- Do I have any **pleasure** at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord GOD, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live?”

III. GOD’S GREAT PLEASURE... is to give us good gifts and prosperity.

Psalms 35:27 -- Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; and let them say continually, “Let the Lord be magnified, Who has **pleasure** in the prosperity of His servant.”

Psalms 36:8 -- They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your **pleasures**.

V. GOD’S GREAT PLEASURE... is to enjoy our fervent hearts of obedience as we long to please Him.

Colossians 1:9-12 (NKJV) ⁹For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Sacrificing for others

Hebrews 13:15-16 -- Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Worshiping God joyfully

Isaiah 58:13-14 -- “If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable, and shall honor Him, not doing your own ways, nor finding your own pleasure, nor speaking your own words, then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; and I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, and feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Standing for God’s truth

1 Thessalonians 2:4 -- But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

Obeying our parents

Colossians 3:20 -- Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

Supporting evangelism

Philippians 4:18 -- Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

Studying God's Word

Psalm 111:2 -- The works of the Lord are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them.

IV. GOD'S GREAT PLEASURE... is replaced by hot displeasure over our sinful desires for pleasure

Deuteronomy 9:19 -- For I was afraid of the **anger and hot displeasure** with which the Lord was angry with you, to destroy you. But the Lord listened to me at that time also.

James 4:3-4 (NKJV) ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may **spend it on your pleasures**. ⁴Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

2 Timothy 3:4 -- traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of **pleasure** rather than lovers of God,

Ecclesiastes 5:4 -- When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no **pleasure** in fools. Pay what you have vowed—

2 Thessalonians 2:12 -- that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had **pleasure** in unrighteousness.

Psalm 6:1 -- O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your **hot displeasure**.

Psalm 5:4 -- For You are not a God who takes **pleasure** in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You.

Now look at Ephesians 5 and see how to abstain from sin.

CONCLUSION: GOD WORKS IN US FOR HIS GOOD PLEASURE – IF WE LET HIM

Philippians 2:13 -- for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good **pleasure**.

Hebrews 13:21 -- make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well **pleasing** in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.