

## GOD WANTS YOU TO BE HAPPY

The glorious Good News entrusted to me by our blessed [happy] God.  
(1 Timothy 1:11, New Living Translation, Second Edition)

I have come in order that you might have life—life in all its fullness.  
(John 10:10, Today's English Version)

If anyone believes in me, rivers of living water will flow out from that person's heart.  
(John 7:38, New Century Version)

How happy is the man who does not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path of sinners or join a group of mockers.  
(Psalm 1:1, Holman Christian Standard Bible, emphasis added)

Don't let anyone separate what God has joined together. (Matthew 19:6, God's Word)

Give honor to marriage and remain faithful to one another in marriage. God will surely judge people who are immoral and those who commit adultery. (Hebrews 13:4, NLT)

Do not wrong or cheat another Christian in this way. The Lord will punish people who do those things as we have already told you and warned you. (1 Thessalonians 4:6, NCV)

There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.  
(Proverbs 14:12, NLT)

## GOD'S WAY TO HAPPINESS

How Happy is the Man who Does Not Follow the Advice of the Wicked. (Psalm 1:1, HCSB)

### 1. Refuse to listen to the wicked.

Bad friends will destroy you. (1 Corinthians 15:33, Contemporary English Version)

Spend time with the wise and you will become wise, but the friends of fools will suffer.  
(Proverbs 13:20, NCV)

Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.  
(Proverbs 27:6, New King James Version)

### HOW TO RECOGNIZE "THE WICKED" – THE PEOPLE I SHOULD AVOID

The wicked are too proud to seek God. (Psalm 10:4, NLT)

"There is no peace for the wicked," says the LORD. (Isaiah 48:22 and Isaiah 57:21, HCSB)

There are seven things that the LORD hates and cannot tolerate: A proud look, a lying tongue...

You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God. The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name. (Exodus 20:7, NLT)

Careless words stab like a sword, but wise words bring healing. (Proverbs 12:18, NCV)

Don't Take the Path of Sinners. (Psalm 1:1, HCSB)

The men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD.  
(Genesis 13:13 (New American Standard Bible, emphasis added)

Don't follow the path of evildoers. Don't even think about it; don't go that way. Turn away and keep moving. (Proverbs 4:14-15, NLT 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed, emphasis added)

Don't Join a Group of Mockers (Psalm 1:1, HCSB)

### 2. Find joy in God's word. *Joshua 1:8*

His delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night.  
(Psalm 1:2, HCSB)

I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow. (Isaiah 48:17, NLT 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.)

These instructions are not empty words--they are your life! (Deuteronomy 32:47, NLT)

[The Scriptures] shall be his constant companion. He must read from it every day of his life.  
(Deuteronomy 17:19 (Living Bible, emphasis added)

- A command to obey
- A promise to claim
- A sin to avoid
- A lesson to learn
- An example to follow or avoid
- A truth that's new to me
- What should I start or stop?

Happy are those who hear the teaching of God and obey it. (Luke 11:27-28, NCV)

### 3. Enjoy the benefits of turning from and turning to.

He is like a tree planted beside streams of water that bears its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. (Psalm 1:3, HCSB)

Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread. (Psalm 37:25, NLT)

### Don't Go Your Way

The wicked are not like this; instead, they are like chaff [dirt] that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not survive the judgment, and sinners will not be in the community of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to ruin. (Psalm 1:4-6, HCSB)

You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it. (Matthew 7:13-14, NLT)

Then I will tell them clearly, 'Get away from me, you who do evil. I never knew you.'  
(Matthew 7:23, NCV)

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.  
(Hebrews 4:7, New International Version)