

Thirsting for Happiness

The world offers many places to search for happiness. Some pursue money, pleasure, recognition, position, or power, only to discover that these things cannot satisfy the deepest needs of the soul. They may fill our hands for a time, but they cannot fill an empty heart. Jesus reveals a better way in **Matthew 5:7–9: true lasting happiness exists when we walk with God.**

Walking with God means becoming merciful. Because God has shown us compassion and forgiveness, we should extend mercy to those who offend, disappoint, or wound us. Mercy may be difficult when our hearts are hurting, but choosing grace instead of bitterness allows others to see the heart of Christ in us.

Walking with God also means striving to be pure in heart. God sees more than outward appearances; He knows our motives, thoughts, desires, and hidden struggles. Through the blood of Christ and the truth of His Word, He can cleanse and renew us. A pure heart seeks what pleases God and longs for the day when we shall see Him face to face.

Finally, walking with God means being a peacemaker. In a world filled with division and broken relationships, Christians must carry the peace of Christ. We do this by speaking gently, forgiving freely, seeking reconciliation, and sharing the gospel that brings sinful people into peace with God.

Lasting happiness is not found in having more of the world, but in becoming more like our Lord. Let us show mercy, guard our hearts, pursue peace, and walk faithfully with God each day. In His presence, the thirsty soul finds the joy, hope, and satisfaction it has been seeking.

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