**Know the Calling**

**2 Peter 1:8-11**

Definition: Happiness -- An inner sense of joyful contentment and gratifying satisfaction regarding one’s life and being.

Truth: The picture we paint of happiness shapes us. We cannot help but pursue the picture of happiness that we draw in our hearts.

*“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.” (Psalm 1:1-2* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Psa._1:1)*)*

*“Thus says the LORD: “Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest (contentment, satisfaction) for your souls.” (Jeremiah 6:16* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Jer._6:16)*)*

**Main Idea: To pursue Christlikeness is to pursue happiness for ourselves. God connects our spiritual growth with our personal contentment.**

**Five Happy Outcomes of Growing in Christ-likeness**

**Outcome #1: We avoid a wasted life.**

Truth: The fruitfulness of our life rests upon the spiritual progress of our soul. For this reason, we keep alert to influences that impede our growth or reverse our course.

*“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#1Cor._9:24)*)*

Application:For this very reason, make every effort to invest ourselves in your own growth toward Christlikeness!

**Outcome #2: We keep 20/20 vision.**

*“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 4:6* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#2Cor._4:6)*)*

*“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#2Cor._3:18)*)*

Principle: The more we see the more we grow. The more we grow the more we see.

*““Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Matt._5:8)*)*

*“Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Heb._12:14)*)*

Truth: Our vision of God sharpens with our active pursuit of a Christlike life.

Application:For this very reason, make every effort to invest in your own growth toward Christlikeness!

**Outcome #3: We gain assurance.**

Application:For this very reason, make every effort to invest in your own growth toward Christlikeness!

**Outcome #4: We prevent falls.**

*Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. (1 Corinthians 10:12* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#1Cor._10:12)*)*

Application:For this very reason, make every effort to invest in your own growth toward Christlikeness!

**Outcome #5: We await a glorious entrance.**

*“If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.” (1 Corinthians 3:14-15* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#1Cor._3:14)*)*

Truth: Our joy in heaven multiplies through our joyful pursuit of Jesus on earth.

Application:For this very reason, make every effort to invest in your own growth toward Christlikeness!

Truth: The picture we paint of happiness shapes us. We cannot help but pursue the picture of happiness that we draw in our hearts.