

The make me feel good Gospel



Is happiness and Joy the target that the gospel presents

If you were to do a search online for current gospel messages today it would spill out a list of today popular gospel messages. Some of those messages would focus on what makes you “feel good”, or what motivates you to “feel better” about yourself and at times it leads people into a façade trying to keep up with a smile. But inward people are miserable but don’t want to show negativity because their being told..you always gotta feel good because you’re a follower of God. Chin up, life is good! But is that really the main focus and message of the gospel?

The Message of the Messiah

While Yeshua our Messiah did say “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” [John.16:33] Did he really mean that you must live every moment in constant happiness and Joy? And for that matter is life and reality really this way day to day? I think if were honest, we’ll all agree life happens in seasons and cycles. Life does not permit a everyday all-day event of happiness and joy. When the Messiah told his disciples to be of good cheer was he saying this meaning no matter what happens still joyful? Actually to "Be of good cheer" is a biblical phrase meaning to take heart, have courage, and remain hopeful, even during adversity.

Perspective on Joy & Happiness

It’s not a supermarket slogan promoting living a life of nothing but happiness and joy every single day of life. When the Messiah underwent the suffering and pain of the crucifixion do we suppose he did it with a smile and wink? No, I don’t think so. The fact is that in this life “you will have trials and tribulations”, sufferings and persecutions. But it is also in this place that we’re told this is the time to get happy or to get joyful [Matt.5:11-12] People will pick on you, and slander you, and mock you. Why? Because you are the Messiahs followers and you represent his truth and light in this world.

Understanding the Christian life

That’s the good thing and that’s what we can stay encouraged and be lifted up about every day. But is this enough to keep emotional joy and happiness alive in

our hearts or minds? Probably not, because emotions come and go from one minute to another. But we do not live on or by emotions, we are to live by faith in Messiah alone. Joy doesn't save us from hurt or pain or suffering. But what does is knowing we have a Messiah who goes through life with us every day. He's the reason we all go from struggling to strength. And that's something that lasts for eternity not a minute.

Things people are swayed by

When people start following the trends of emotionalism and hear these Armani, Gucci preachers promoting their latest books on how to feel good all the time, do we suppose these people are following the true gospel message or perhaps their following another gospel? [Gal.1:8] A gospel that tells them that the only person who matters in this life is them? Can you get happy about that? Because all their hearing is "tell me how I can get joy and happiness for myself" if your too busy perusing your own happiness or joy, or whatever makes you happy... where did the rest of civilization disappear too?

Self is never the main focus for Christian living

No, that fact is that if we're so self-absorbed our focus is no longer on God but on our self and we expect God to comply and make our lives a bucket full of daisies and roses because after all..he did say be of good cheer, so I think I should be happy and joyful all the time no matter what. But the bottom line is that living a real and truthful Christian life means there will be times when you will experience hardship, pain and sufferings[2 Cor.1:3-4]

The real and the unreal

But along the way there will be real times when the balance shifts and we just have days of encouragement and joy. Personal Joy and happiness should not be focused on self, it should be focused on how we live out our life within God each day that determines what God wills not what we demand for self. The truth is that You will have ups, downs, laughs, hugs, cries, pain and joy [Rom.8:18]. That's all part of living out the real Christian life and living out the gospel message in front of dark world that hates the light. The real message of the Gospel teaches us to become genuine, obedient, true, real, and faithful followers of the Messiah. It's not about making us feel good, as to some that's the only thing that matters. But that's not the real gospel. [2Tim.4:3-4]

3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.