

MYTHBUSTERS
“God Wants Me Happy”
Roger Pryor—December 6, 2009

HAPPILY EVER AFTER

1. We fake it.

2. We sugar-coat it.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 (TNIV)

3. We chase it.

...It is all meaningless—like chasing the wind. Ecclesiastes 1:4 (NLT)

4. We rationalize it.

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Romans 6:1 (NLT)

Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? Romans 6:2 (NLT)

UNDERSTANDING GOD’S HEART

...Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. 1 Timothy 6:17 (NLT)

Every good and perfect gift is from above.... James 1:17 (TNIV)

BETTER THAN OUR OWN HAPPINESS

1. Someone else’s happiness

You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35b

He chose to share the oppression of God’s people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward. Hebrews 11:25-26 (NLT)

2. Wake-up calls from God

“I brought hunger to every city and famine to every town....I kept the rain from falling when your crops needed it the most....I struck your farms and vineyards with blight and mildew. Locusts devoured all your fig and olive trees....I sent plagues on you like the plagues I sent on Egypt long ago....But still you would not return to me,” says the Lord. Amos 4:6-11 (NLT)

3. Troubles that change our character

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4 (TNIV)

4. Sacrifices that impact God’s work

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2-3 (NLT)