



*“Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women!”
(Luke 1:28)*

The day all creation was waiting for

- “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.” (Gal. 4:4-5)
- “...for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.” (Luke 10:24)



Happiness

- “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and **the pursuit of Happiness.**” (Declaration of Independence, 1776 AD)



The pursuit of happiness...

- “He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; He who loves wine and oil will not be rich.”
(Prov. 21:17)
- King Solomon



Solomon and the queen of Sheba by Giovanni Demin (1789-1859)

The pursuit of happiness...

- “I searched in my heart how to gratify my flesh with wine, while guiding my heart with wisdom...” (Eccl. 2:3)
- “I made my works great, I built myself houses, and planted myself vineyards. I made myself gardens and orchards, and I planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made myself water pools from which to water the growing trees of the grove. I acquired male and female servants, and had servants born in my house. Yes, I had greater possessions of herds and flocks than all who were in Jerusalem before me. I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the special treasures of kings and of the provinces. I acquired male and female singers, the delights of the sons of men, and musical instruments of all kinds.

The pursuit of happiness...

- “So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.” (Eccl. 2:4-11)

Joy

- “The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him.” (Ps. 28:7)
- “Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God.” (Ps. 43:4)
- “Thou hast turned my mourning into joy for me: thou hast rent off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness.” (Ps. 30:11 LXX)
- Joy is the state of being in communion with God.

Joy

- Untouchable joy
- “Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.”
(John 16:22)



Differences between happiness and joy

1. Happiness is temporary, but joy is constant
2. Happiness is dependant on external circumstances, but joy is inward

Joy amidst suffering and trials

- All things work for good
 - “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” (Rom. 8:28)
- We are very precious in the sight of God
 - “**He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all**, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? **Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?** It is God who justifies.” (Rom. 8:32-33)
 - “Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has **given us the Spirit as a guarantee.**” (2 Cor. 5:5)

Joy amidst suffering and trials

- Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ
 - “For I am persuaded that neither **death nor life**, nor **angels** nor **principalities** nor **powers**, nor **things present** nor **things to come**, nor **height** nor **depth**, nor **any other created thing**, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
(Rom. 8:38-39)