

#122 A SPOKEN WORD.....

"Happiness is found in holiness."

After awakening I ponder this word "holiness." For if happiness is to be found therein, then I want to understand the practical side of holiness.

The word holiness or holy is used with or refers to God in the Bible more than any other word. To be holy is to be pure, righteous or whole. We as Christians have Christ's righteousness imparted to us yet we see its substance only as it flows out of us in practical holiness. If faith is truly alive with practical outworkings so too righteousness is revealed when evidenced by our holy living. Christians who have true faith and righteousness will of necessity have works and holiness to confirm their presence. A tree is known by its fruit, not by its profession of fruit.

Even God's love is grounded in His holiness. Holiness is the sum total of the fruit of the Spirit in us. Why, it is the very nature of God Himself.

Now happiness is a word that occupies everyone's thoughts. Worldly happiness depends solely on our present circumstances. If all goes well and our desires and wishes are fulfilled, we are happy. Temporal happiness depends on temporal pleasures. Happiness for the Christian has more to do with the fruit of joy and peace. The kingdom of God is joy, peace and righteousness in the Holy Spirit. Yet that joy and peace are only ours as we walk in His righteousness in holy living. Yes, for us, happiness is found in holiness.

Christian joy coexists with sorrow, suffering and affliction; worldly happiness can not. It can only live as certain moods, emotions and pleasures are present. Christian joy can rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. It lives because Christ is present. For the joy set before Him Christ endured the cross. He was a man of sorrows yet He had joy. This joy does not depend on pleasant surroundings and fair weather. It draws from a different well.

Worldly happiness has simply found its own way and life, yet will forfeit both later. Godly joy has given up its own way for Christ so enjoys His life now and forever. Worldly happiness can not count it all joy when it falls into many temptations and trials, only when they pass. It has no strength to endure so must wait for circumstances to change.

True spiritual happiness comes from knowing and learning of God. We find our joy in pleasing Christ and being in union with Him. In pleasing Him now, one day He will say to us, "Enter into the joy of thy Lord"---a joy that will have no sorrow or suffering for these will have passed away.