



*A ministry to encourage
and equip women
in the Word of God.*

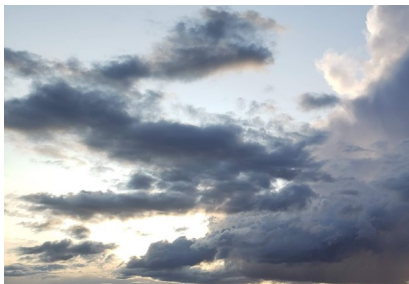
Sanctify them through thy truth:thy word is truth.

In the Beginning

God's World is full of wonders for you to enjoy. There is such diversity that boredom may never enter in because of the abundant things He created. Learning about them is a life long process. For each of you there may be a particular group or classification of items that fascinates you more than others. Just learning about one class of creation can have you in awe of all the different types and intricacies that are involved.

What amazes me about creation is when you learn about a certain category, you are also learning about God. Take for instance the clouds.

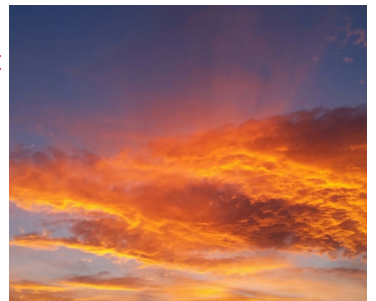
Maybe you remember a time while lying on the grass with a sibling or best friend looking up at the clouds letting your imagination run wild. All sorts of things appeared before your eyes. You would



holler out "That one looks like a moose." While almost simultaneously the other person would shout out "A flying dog." And the

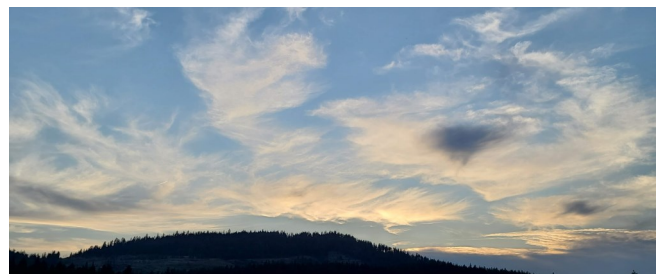
opinions would ensue. Yet the one thing you could agree on, it was a fun way to pass the time on a warm breezy afternoon.

Many of you did not realize at the time but you were taking notice of God's creation. Before the time of meteorologists people used clouds and the sky to predict the weather. Jesus gave reference to this in Matthew 16:2-3, He answered and said unto them, **"When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, it will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering."**



The clouds will forecast the type of weather that is coming. This is the training of a meteorologist. When God created the world, there probably were no clouds because it hadn't rained. The clouds came after the flood, for from clouds rains come.

Clouds are divided into four core categories with these being divided further. All together there are 10 different types of clouds. Throughout scriptures it is seen how God uses the clouds to help us understand a few things about Him.

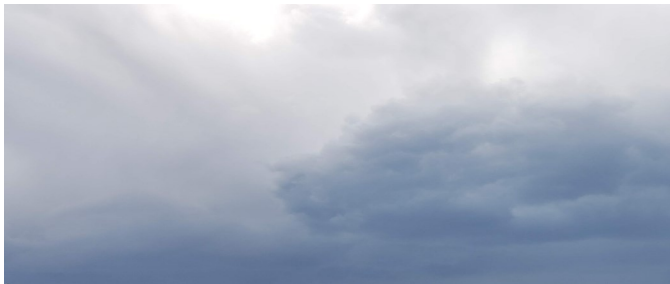




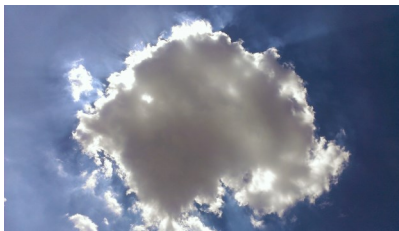
God had promised that when the children of Israel left Egypt He would be with them. God guided them in the way they should go guided throughout the day by a pillar of cloud. Though they

could not see God, they could see His provision for safety in the cloud (Exodus 13:21-22).

After the tabernacle was built in the wilderness a cloud covered the tent of the congregation and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. The children were not allowed to move the tabernacle until the LORD had taken the cloud up. As long as the cloud remained, so did Israel (Exodus 40:34-38).

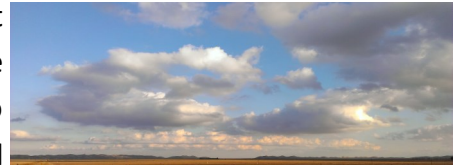


God has promised us forgiveness of sins. One analogy He uses is that He will blot out our sins like a thick cloud blocks out the



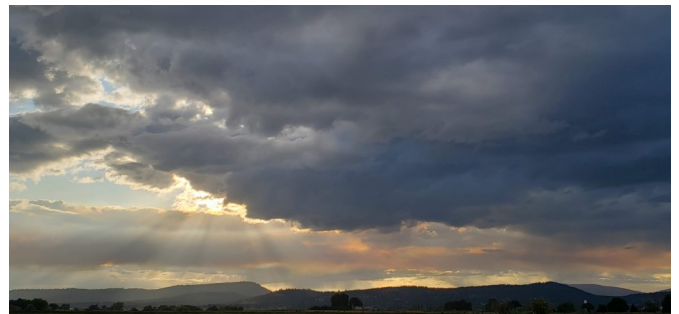
sun. This means He does not see our sin anymore, just like we don't see the sun when it is covered by a cloud (Isaiah 44:22). Our sins are covered by the blood of Jesus. God is always faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 7-9).

The movement of clouds by the wind is used to help understand



that if you are not grounded in the true doctrines of Scripture, then you can be easily led astray by false doctrines. As clouds have no anchor that holds them, a person who does not have truth will sway with many different beliefs (2 Peter 2:17).

And the best is that one day we shall see Him in the clouds (Matthew 24:30). Those who are alive and remain will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:17). What do you think of when you see the clouds break open and the sun rays shining through? Do you think of that glorious day?



There is plenty to think about when you see the clouds. God's deliverance and provision for His children, His glory and His forgiveness. And to rejoice that one day you will see Him in the clouds and meet Him in the air!



And here is a butterfly to remind you that you are a new creation in Christ (1 Corinthians 5:17).

So next time you look at the clouds have some fun and rejoice in the beauty of God's creation.

How to be Happy?

Sometimes when I see a headline of an article declaring “If you want to be happy follow these steps,” my curiosity gets the best of me because I think, “Wow, the answer to happiness, this ought to be good! I thought the answer was in the Bible.” So according to science, psychology, or some other expert, what does it take to be happy.

Quoting from an article from Dr. Travis Bradberry from March 6, 2023. “13 Things Science Says will Make You Much Happier”

“It’s no secret that we’re obsessed with happiness. After all, the “pursuit of happiness” is even enshrined in the Declaration of Independence. But happiness is fleeting. How can we find it and keep it alive? Psychologists at the University of California have discovered some fascinating things about happiness that could change your life. Your happiness, or lack thereof, is rooted in habits. Permanently adopting new habits—especially those that involve intangible, such as how you see the world—is hard, but breaking the habits that make you unhappy is much easier. There are numerous bad habits that tend to make us unhappy. Eradicating these bad habits can move your happiness set point in short order.”

I tend to agree with this view point. A person can have some bad habits that keep them “stuck” in a negative mind set. When I say that, it is a mind set on “self”. You are told throughout scripture to have your mind set on Christ. You are also told to renew your mind. How is this done? Let’s consider some of the things this article says about it and align these with scripture.

According to the article the following are some things people lack to obtain happiness.

1. Immunity to Awe—“Amazing things happen around you everyday when you are aware of your surroundings. Yet everyone is busy or spending too

much time on social media to take notice. True awe is humbling. It reminds you that there is something bigger and you are not the center of the universe. Awe is also inspiring and full of wonder. It’s hard to be happy when you just shrug your shoulders every time you see something new.”

Yes, awe is important and it is true it takes you from being self-centered. But as children of God, your “awe” should be directed towards the LORD and His Word. Psalm 4:4—Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.

When you take the time to stand in awe of God it will fill you with wonder and happiness. There are many things about God that should amaze you. His Creation, Your salvation, His faithfulness, and so many others. Awe also gives the idea of fear and trembling. Respect Him for who He is and what He can do. When you fear God, or stand in awe of Him, you are less likely to have sin in your life. Psalm 33:8—Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

2. “Living in the present—Like fear, the past and the future are products of your mind. No amount of guilt can change the past, and no amount of anxiety can change the future. Happy people know this, so they focus on living in the present. It’s impossible to reach your full potential if you’re constantly somewhere else, unable to fully embrace the reality (good or bad) of the very moment.”

This is so true! That is why God has given us the answer to guilt and shame—His forgiveness. 1 John 1:9—If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Those who struggle with guilt and shame need to believe

God has forgiven them.

The Apostle Paul also gave encouragement to not dwell on the past when he said, “But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Paul had much to feel stuck in, seeing how he persecuted the Lord’s Church. Yet, he understood Christ was better so when his past would try to drag him down, he would continue to press on. There is much scripture about renewing your mind. This is done in large part by believing truth.

Two scriptures that help focus on the Lord and not worry or fret about the past or future is **Philippians 4: 6-7** and **1 Peter 5:7**.

Philippians 4:6-8, Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:7, Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Happiness comes when you focus on the things Christ has done for you and not your past or a future you have no control over.

3. Complaining— “Complaining is troubling, as well as the attitude that precedes it. Complaining is a self-reinforcing behavior. By constantly talking and therefore thinking about how bad things are, you reaffirm your negative beliefs. While talking about what bothers you can help you feel better, there’s a fine line between complaining being therapeutic and it fueling unhappiness.”

According to the Bible complaining is a sin. It is a lack of trust in God to take care of you and your circumstances. The children of Israel murmured

and complained quite often even after they witnessed the mighty hand of God in delivering them from Egypt and taking care of them in the wilderness. Each time, they suffered consequences. God’s desire is that you would trust Him to take care of your needs but to also take care of the situations that are troubling you. **1 Timothy 6:6-8 admonishes to not fall for worldliness but to be content.**

1 Timothy 6:6, But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Focusing on praising God and giving thanks also helps the complaining to cease. God has given you so much to be thankful for and you can praise Him continually for the God that He is. As His child, be joyful that you have a Savior who died for you, a God who loves you, and the Holy Spirit to lead you.

As you can see by these three examples; God, through His Word has given you the remedy for happiness. Many scriptures make the statement “blessed (happy) is the man...” who obeys the Lord.

While obedience does bring happiness, it also brings joy. The desire of God is that His children would have joy. Joy comes from setting your mind on Christ and being obedient to Him. By abiding in the Vine, you will have joy (John 15:1-11).

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