

“Choose... Joy or Happiness”

By Pastor Bill Hayden

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Initially, God allowed humanity to make choices that would determine their future. He placed us in a perfect environment with a peaceful and harmonious relationship with Himself and nature. He placed eternal life and death before us as living trees. The Tree of Good and Evil, its fruit, though very appealing to all the senses of sight, taste, and touch... produced death. The Tree of Eternal Life did not have the same sensory appeal as the Tree of Good and Evil, but God advised them to choose life. Each tree had its fruit to live forever or bring death and destruction.

Through the influence of a fallen angel (Lucifer), humanity was convinced to sample the fruit from the Tree of Good and Evil so they might become like God in knowledge, but death ensued. Here we are today... continuing to eat from the Tree of Good and Evil. In the Bible, one of the characteristics of these days is that people are ever learning but never coming to the Knowledge of Truth. (2 Timothy 3 NKJV).

Each day, we have choices to be joyful or happy. There is little difference between the two. Happiness is a bubbly, superficial, circumstantial feeling that comes and goes. It only takes an untimely interruption to change your attitude and disposition. On the other hand, Joy is a deep-seated, lasting affection that endures. Absolute Joy resonates with the soul. When I had to receive a heart transplant several years ago, I wasn't happy with the condition of my heart, but I was joyfully confident that whatever occurred, I was okay with, because God had me in His hands.

I choose joy over happiness because the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, and so on... Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV. Joy will always follow when you have a loving relationship with God and others.

Please celebrate the Good Life with us at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium this Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life and enjoy coffee and cookies with friends. The chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at www.villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club