

# *A Search for God*

BOOK II

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## XI

### HAPPINESS

[Based on Edgar Cayce readings 262-107 through 262-112]

#### What Is Happiness?

Happiness is abiding in Infinite Love. To be happy we must make Infinite Love compatible with our material surroundings. No one can give it to us, no one can take it away. We manifest it in thankfulness, peace, harmony, and in a consciousness that is void of offense toward God and man. Happiness is knowing, being in touch with, and manifesting divine love in our daily life. Happiness is as much a law as error or goodness, as day or night. The first law is: Like begets like. That which we think, we become. As in the act, as in the seed, so in the full fruit of that which we allow our mind to dwell upon, that we become. Happy are they who love the Lord's way. (See 262-109.)

#### Who Are Happy?

Happy are the poor in spirit, for they shall see God. We are happy when we in humility realize the goodness of the Father, the depth of His love, and allow ourselves to be directed by the God-Force. But when we become acquainted with "familiar spirits,"<sup>1</sup> we dishonor the God who has promised to abide with us always.

Happy are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. We have a thirst for spiritual satisfaction that only the Spirit of God can supply. We have an advocate with the Father God, in Jesus Christ, and in such

<sup>1</sup>See I Sam. 28:7

knowledge we have comfort. Though we may feel sorrow for others in their unrighteousness, yet we are happy when we can bless those whom our Lord smiles upon in their weaknesses.

Happy are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord."<sup>2</sup> The unseen forces are working the great changes in the earth and its people today. Those who are quiet, cool and unpretentious are the makers and the keepers of the coming age who will bring light and understanding to many. Blessed are those who, without thought of self, go forward, build homes, hospitals, cities, that generations to come may be blessed. These are they who inherit the earth. What we give away, we have, is as true as what we hold, we lose, or what we have lost was never ours.

Happy are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find."<sup>3</sup> It is a fearful thing for us to be at ease, to feel self-sufficient and not to realize that we, of ourselves, can do nothing. It is glorious to come to an understanding of our relationship with our Heavenly Father and with our fellow man. We are happy who realize that the fountain of knowledge, of peace and of righteousness is overflowing, and that our thirst can be forever satisfied in Him who is the Water of Life.

Happy are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Father, "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." If we forgive not our brother his trespasses, how can we hope to be forgiven? To forgive and to be merciful are Godlike. To hold grudges, to want revenge, to pout and to sulk, are of the earth, and they have no part in the Kingdom of the Father. Happy are the merciful, for they have the promise that their needs will be met.

Happy are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Unless ye become as a little child, ye shall not see the Kingdom of God. There is no evil in the mind of a little child. The prisoner before the bar is to the child a good man. Unless we, too, can see God in our fellow man, we will never see Him elsewhere. This is our first step toward God, and there is no roundabout way. There is no happi-

<sup>2</sup>Zech. 4:6      <sup>3</sup>Matt. 7:7

ness within us when we are holding an impure thought of another.

Happy are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."<sup>4</sup> In the world of uneasiness and turmoils, this is a happy state of consciousness; yet peace will not remain long within if there is no effort to express it without.

Happy are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also."<sup>5</sup> This is another way of saying that we should go all the way in being kind and gentle to others. Because we have little, do we often say that we must save, so that we may not be in want? Let us remember that there may be those who now need what little we hold. We may say, if I were so and so, oh, how much I would give to charity, to the needy! If we would not share the little we have, we would not give although we had everything at our command.

When we are persecuted for righteousness' sake and are conscious that it is for His sake, the light which brings happiness shines into the darkest corner of our life. When we can realize that the place we fill and the work we do is not only a livelihood, but a means through which others may come to a better understanding of life, then the little slurs, the insults, the criticisms lose much of the sting they would otherwise carry. Love comes more easily and forgiveness is given before it is asked, when we are happy to suffer for righteousness' sake.

Happy are you "when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: . . . for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."<sup>6</sup> "They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service."<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup>John 14:27

<sup>5</sup>Matt. 5:40

<sup>6</sup>Matt. 5:11-12

<sup>7</sup>John 16:2

### When Are We Happy?

When the Lord's will becomes our will, we are happy, for we begin to know the Lord in our daily life. Do we think that Jesus went happily to the cross, or that He went happily from the garden where there had been apparently so little consideration of what the moment meant as He wrestled with self? With all the sadness that this experience gave Him, He was happy in knowing that He would show the world a way out of sin. Do we worry over the shortcomings of those we love? How was He with those He loved? He gave them only His blessings, never His censure. As we follow His example we are happy.

Moments of discouragement will arise in our experience. We may expect them; such seem necessary for our training. It need be that offenses come, but woe to him by whom they come. Let mercy and patience keep each of us lest we forget our opportunities.

Happiness is found in the mind and heart of those who without thought of self seek to know the way of God. It cannot be bought. It cannot be learned. It must be earned. No one can take it from us, but we may, through misuse, lose it. Let our daily prayer be:

Our Father, our God, in my own consciousness let me find happiness in the love of Thee, for the love I bear toward my fellow man. Let my life, my words, my deeds, bring the joy and happiness of the Lord in Jesus to each I meet day by day. 262-106

### Pleasure Is Not Happiness

How often we confuse pleasure with happiness. We see those of the world seemingly enjoying every pleasure that luxury can give, yet many have sad faces and heavy hearts.

Pleasure is of the world; it is something outside of us. It is fleeting, deceiving and unsatisfying. It gives no reward but asks a heavy toll as we pass over the bridge of unrealized dreams. Solomon declared, "I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards: I

made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits . . . Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labor that I had labored to do; and . . . then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.”<sup>8</sup>

“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”<sup>9</sup>

Let us think on the difference between pleasure and happiness, for they are as the material and the spiritual. Through pleasure we seek to gratify physical desires, but when we have lost sight of self in the appreciation of love, beauty and hope in the Creative Forces, may we indeed know happiness.

The road to Gethsemane, to the minds of those who looked upon their own Gethsemane, was a road of thorns. Yet the Lord’s kind words, spoken on the way to His Calvary, brought happiness to a dying world. “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”<sup>10</sup>

Happiness is found in Infinite and Divine Love. Infinite Love is the love of God. Love Divine is that manifested by those who in their activities are guided by infinite love. They are one in Him. They bring happiness, not mere pleasure as is found in material things.

We should find happiness in just sowing the seed. Some will fall on stony ground, to be sure; some by the wayside, some among the thorns and briars; but many will fall on good soil. Then we must keep the faith, knowing that God gives the increase.

We must show ourselves worthy of Him who will guide us in our daily activities. Our greatest opportunities for service are found in being kind, speaking gently, and smiling often. Let the love of the Father through such activities shine in our life day by day. Then the clouds of doubt will dissipate.

If we put first things first, with the proper evaluation of material, mental, and spiritual forces, our life will be a life of harmony, happiness, and joy. Others will be aware

<sup>8</sup>Eccles. 2:4-13

<sup>9</sup>Matt. 16:26

<sup>10</sup>John 14:27

of our relationships to our God as we patiently sow the seeds of love.

### Conclusion

Truth brings freedom, and freedom brings happiness. "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."<sup>11</sup> In truth we do not bind others, neither do we exalt self.

Selfishness is the only sin. All others are just modifications of the expression of the ego. So close is the ego, the I am, to the Great I Am, that the confusions of duties and privileges and opportunities become enmeshed in our experiences. Many of us in the turmoils of life have lost sight of the proper evaluation of our activities in our relationship to individuals as well as to groups, and fail to consider it our duty to give the help which might enable others to overcome sorrow, fear or worry.

Then if we would have life, we must give life; if we would have friends, we must be friendly. In fields of activity let us draw nigh unto that which is good and think not only of material gains, but of how great a service we may be to our fellow man! For in so doing we serve our Maker. (See 257-182.)

<sup>11</sup>John 8:32